

DEAD WRONG: AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORT BY JANE O'HARA

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Saving Our Schools

We all know about the crisis
in Canadian classrooms.

Meet the local heroes
who are doing
something about it



Education expert
Michael Fullan

From the Editor



The CRTC vs. free speech (?)

Even for those of us who didn't attend—and had no sound reasons—there were reasons to take heart in last week's National Newspaper Awards ceremony in Toronto. One was the impressive work of women, including the *National Post*'s investigative ace Andrew McMeekin—who unearthed the so-called Shawinigan scandal; the devil, provocative writing of *The Globe and Mail*'s Margaret Wente; and the courage of *Citrus* reporter Michel Auger of *Le Journal de Montréal*, now back at work after being fired for his role in the back-lash fall. There were lots of impressive efforts—a nice reminder that there is more to journalism than chasing about convergence, battles between media conglomerates, and publishers and editors seeking new ways to say bad things about adversaries.

Concerns are right to have concerns about the state of journalism. A small number of people control most of our print and electronic outlets, leading to worries about whether they'll push to have reports slowed in a manner beneficial to them. Or perhaps that's not even necessary: their hired journalists already accept their wishes. Check out, say, the way the *Globe* reports on the business performance of the *Post* (or, in print company, *Canwest Global*—the note is always negative). The same is true in voice with the *Post*.

That helps explain why the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has concerns over cross-ownership of TV networks and newspapers: BCE, which owns CTV and the *Globe*, and the *Post* family—who run the *Southern* papers, half the *Post* and *Canwest Global*—have huge influence in setting the national news agenda. Now, the CRTC is considering rules to keep TV and print operations separate so that the *Globe* could not share facilities with CTV, and *Post* journalists couldn't work over to their *Global* counterparts.

That proposal evidently seems sensible in bureaucratic Ottawa, but looks silly everywhere else. There aren't many Canadians with deep pockets and a desire to invest in major media operations. If you outlaw potential synergies and resource efficiencies in news-gathering operations, that makes those properties even less desirable as a business proposition. Like it or not, few people spend billions just for the joy of helping their community profit matters. And as CTV vice-president Kirk LaPlante notes, such rules would make a case for journalists to talk to competitors than to each other.

Moreover, it's not as though *CanWest* and BCE are the only players around. *Montreal's* have four daily newspapers and four local TV channels. *Toronto's* offer even more choice: *Ontario*, *Windsor*, *Edmonton* and *Calgary* have *Sun Media* newspapers as well, and *Halifax* and *Quebec*. City also have two dailies. Almost everywhere in Canada, you have the CBC (and *Maclean's*). Not to mention access to the world via the Internet. Virtually any Canadian can read, watch or talk about anything, anytime, with anyone—unless the CRTC's worst interests prevail, and some journalists can only talk with colleagues under controlled circumstances. All in favour of free speech for journalists, stand up. You there, in Ottawa, why are you still sitting down?

Andy Uehling

respondents/anchors go to comment on From the Editor

Newsroom Notes

A fighting spirit

A reporter who has spent the past few years covering education is more than aware that confidence in the Canadian public-school system seems to have hit an all-time low. Years of funding cuts and labour turmoil have left parents, students and teachers demoralized. So, where is the good news, the hope for the future? That was the question that

Antarctic Managing Editor Ann Downer Johnson posed to Education Editor John Schofield and several bureau writers across the country. Together, they have presented an impassioned group of local heroes, miracle workers who are saving schools around.

For Schofield, who wrote

the main cover story, the suggestion had new personal significance. As the father of two-month-old Dylan, he has a vested



Schofield and Downer Johnson

interest in the future of the Canadian school system. A vested interest that, in fact, all modern state share. "The future health of Canada depends, in many ways, on the health of our schools," says Downer Johnson. "Canadians understand that. And there's a terrific fighting spirit

emerging at a grassroots level across the country. No one wants public education to die in their watch."

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The Mail



A peaceful neighbourhood becomes a war zone

On the summit

I am a resident of the St-Jean-Baptiste quarter of Quebec City where the Summit of the Americas recently took place ("No string to the fence," *Canada*, April 30). For two days and nights, my house was subjected to helicopters constantly hovering, noisy demonstrations running back and forth, the popping of tear-gas guns nearby and the continuous march of tear gas on my clothes, my hair, my skin and in every corner of the house. It boggles my mind that our government could condone naming a peaceful neighbourhood into a war zone for two days so that they and their guests could talk, wine, dine and party in peace. To add insult to injury, not one government body even drank up for ensuring what we put up with.

Margot Allen, Quebec City

While on a trip to Leipzig, in the former East Germany, I stopped by the Nikolaikirche. It was here, in 1989, that people gathered to protest the Communist regime. Everything was done without vandalism or violence—yet these people are widely credited with the downfall of the Iron Curtain. Run forward to 2001, where protesters believe that the only way to stop the gangs-on in Quebec is to form a screaming mob.

They have, in response to what they consider branding, become brutal themselves.

Richard Straka, Lloydminster, Alta.

The Prime Minister should have held the sacrifice in Whitehorse in mid-February. There would be few dissidents lingering in the -40° C weather.

Markus G. Walther, Victoria

I do not condone the violence, but I certainly support many of the concerns of the protesters. All the more so after reading "The Fatigue" (*Canada* and the World, April 30), about rampant diseases such as sleeping sickness, malaria and tuberculosis killing hundreds of thousands of people in Africa. A major factor is the high cost of the drugs needed to combat these diseases. Dr. Harvey White Jr., head of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Associations, says "Why is it that the industry is called upon to be the social safety net? It is not the job of the pharmaceutical company to do this." These words indicate very clearly the attitude of many major companies just submitting at the expansion of free trade—and why the protesters at the Peoples Summit are concerned.

Mary Krukowski, Stittville, B.C.

Finally, one good article on free trade ("We'll fight the FTAA," Peter C. Newman, April 30). Protesters protesting is not a story, even if it fills the news

The naked truth

Hello, my name is Sean and I'm 11. I agree sometimes the one-shooter games get off the edge with violence ("Killing time," *Canada*, April 30). Duke Nukem is not a really violent game except that there's naked women. If you go close to them and click a button, you will see your gun go away and see money in your hand, which you give to the stripper. Then she takes off her bra and shows her breasts. The games I ride with are Black & White, Command & Conquer: Red Alert 2, StarCraft, The Sims, House Party, and stuff like that.

Sean Patrick Craig, Oshawa, Ont.

hour or several pages in *Maclean's*. No sane person can claim that reducing trade barriers will not bring benefits to all countries involved. What may cause for concern are the terms clauses that attach themselves to these agreements. Newman raises several red flags and in the present discussions and provides some intelligent analysis.

Mark Wright, Calgary

Peter C. Newman repeats the oft-heard whine of the Canadian culture club—one free trade if you want, but not where it might affect me or my friends. He should reflect by now that a distinctive culture is not the product of, nor can it be protected by, tariffs, subsidies or government fiat, nor should it be. People do not select their books, music, magazines or movies based on cost or whether there is a Maple Leaf on them. They make these choices based on quality and taste, pure and simple. And where quality is concerned, Canadians have nothing to fear from the world.

Mark Haddock, Ottawa

Games and gore

Being 14 years old, I know most of the video games that are played today firsthand ("Killing time," *Canada*, April 30). Some games are blood-on-type games, but the ones you showed were the gentlest of them all. Nobody I know

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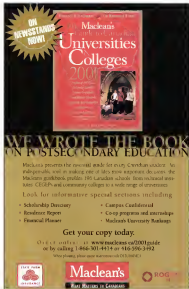
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would even think of buying a game simply for the game factor. A good game is not necessarily a good game, but a good game can be a game. How can parents know that the game is really appropriate for a 16-year-old? You play it. I'm all for putting ratings on games, but thinking that they are destroying it is completely off the mark.

Will Goodwin, Toronto

Sighhhhh, here we go again. I remember that I was 12 or 13 (I'm almost 17 now) and my parents turning off TV shows and movies because "violent TV will make you more aggressive." That was always followed with "why don't you read a book?" So, I went upstairs and read. My favourites were *The Last Viking* series by Christopher Pike. I vividly remember the first chapter of the first book in the series. It involved the beautiful protagonist, a vampire, brutally murdering a police chief when he refused to tell her what she wanted to know. Violence such as this was only briefly interspersed with sex throughout the novels. I found this book in the children's section of a local bookstore, but had my parents come across me watching a movie based on these books, they would surely have told me to go read a book. I have no problem with ratings and without for computer games, I just wish that people would learn to take responsibility and try to fix what they think is wrong with society instead of finding the nearest scapegoat.

Rosalee Lickorish, Vancouver

Shareholder control

Count me in on agreeing wholeheartedly with Claude Lemieux of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan Board, corporate salaries and opaque

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business. (April 30) I have been waging a backhandedly with a tech company, which is probably years away from profitability and has seen its share price plummet over the past two years, regarding the huge

salaries and bonuses paid to its executives. I have absolutely no hope that the attitude will ever change unless shareholders unite somehow and give these companies hell.

Bill Ellis, Burlington, Ont.

What's in a name?

With regard to Karen Martin-Robbins' "With these names, I shed" (Over to You, April 30), I wonder what will happen if the children of this mixed-races couple decide to be as "racist" when they get married, and become Martin-Robbins-Jones-Smith. And what about their grandchildren? They will have eight last names! Where will it end? You can call the practice of women changing their names on marriage endonym, but I'll call it practical Joe Fox, Toronto, B.C.

I like what the Dutch do: the women often add her family name with a hyphen to her husband's—his name her name—and the children take the husband's family name. This way, the woman's father's name is honoured (why, I have to wonder), the woman's identity is not really gone up (what was that mean) and kids, dad and mom all go by the same last name, at least.

J.E. Conner, Delta, B.C.

Perhaps the placement was accidental, but the result was humorous. First, I read about the practice of endonymizing in "The Cape Breton art of 'yefing'" (Overture, April 30) and chuckled. Then I named the page to read about the Martin-Robbins (as was that Robbins-Martin?) and laughed. I wondered what would happen if Heather Brown Donald Gosselin MacDonald married the Martin-Robbins?

son. Would they become the Donald Gosselin Gosselin MacDonald Martin-Robbins? But maybe as true Cape Breton folklore, the two lovebirds would just become "Oar Heather and the fellas from away."

Tom Blackford, Colyton Place, Ont.

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♦ **The Vice:** U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney says pumping more fossil fuel in the American "Why Global warming? Can't we just SUV Nation's style."

♦ **Canadians:** Col. Chris Hadfield comes back to earth after walking in space and unfolding the second generation of Canada's cool robot space lents.



On top of the ups and downs

♦ **The Deputy Chief:** Larry Hill of Ottawa's police force promises an unbiased investigation after a city officer is videotaped slapping a woman's head against a car.

♦ **The Deputy Leader:** MP Grant Hill's first move in Stock Day's new legislature into Preston's office. Manning calls graciously, but Hill should have known better.

♦ **After work:** Bush's anti-terrorist nitrate should reform needs Manning's co-operation, but Dodge gives no clear about how he plans to get Russia outside.

♦ **Survivor:** There are entrepreneurs who need to feel superior, says a psychologist's study. Canadians who watched final episode instead of Leafs-Derby Game 4 should lose citizenship.



BEAM ME UP, PLEASE

Last month, the British Flying Saucer Bureau announced it was closing after 49 years, due to a lack of UFO sightings. But on this side of the Atlantic, British Columbia and the Yukon are posting unusually high numbers of sightings—102 and 26, respectively—for 2008. And Newfoundlanders have always got very busy in immediate number of "visions." Could it be alien how found a perfect vacuum spot in Canada?

Last week, a crew from TV's Space Channel—including producer Jim Shuman and Science Evans and hosts Natasia Eliot and Steve Anthony—set out across the country to gather X-File-type anecdotes of both the conventional and the supernatural. "It is a high-level fact," says Shuman, "that Canada had a government-supported UFO tracking mission back in the late '50s, in Stanley's Bay, Ont. We are going to check it out." Other destinations include Newfoundland's Bell Island, famous for fairies, witches and werewolves, and a UFO landing pad in St. Paul, Ala. Meanwhile, viewers are encouraged to post their paranormal happenings on the channel's Web site, www.spacechannel.com.

The crew's adventures will be broadcast in four-minute segments everyday throughout the summer. Although the producers would lose nothing more than to stumble upon a few ghosts on E.T., more likely the segments will feature "believers" telling their stories of sightings and abductions. "It's a pretty light-hearted approach," says Evans. "There are not going to be many deadly serious investigative muckrakers. Although there is a re-enactment or two of our stories." In other words, if the truth is out there, they'll find it and turn it into something cheesy.



Jeep

THERE'S ONLY ONE

Manson's got a brand new bag

Speakers of NewMusicfest—the annual Vancouver conference for performers and music industry representatives—are diving for their thrills after landing shock rocker Marilyn Manson as their artist keynote speaker (May 11). In a recent release, Manson is called "a visionary artist," "an astute businessman" and "the undisputed master of the dark side of rock." Such descriptions are tame for the self-proclaimed satanist whose stage abject was summed up by Entertainment Weekly as "a blend of fetishism, anti-fetishism, Christian building and profane self-destruction."

Conference publicity director Mary Ann McKendrick says Manson, who owns his own record label, will talk "about going beyond the controversy and being a businessman in this industry." Or not, says McKendrick. The devil only knows what Manson might actually say.



REAL MEN FIND TIME FOR FACIALS

Construction worker Robert Garner likes to get his nails buffed once a month. He says it makes his hands look nice for when he is lunching with business clients. According to the 36-year-old Californian, pedicures are also a must. "Every guy who works in construction wants another bootie boost," says Garner, "and when they get wet they turn your feet white and it's just gross."

Beauty salons for men are already common in Paris, where men are more familiar with the pump and pain of personal grooming. But now Canadian salons are booking more appointments for men to get their nails done, their backs waxed and the hair in their ears and on their noses nipped by electrolysis. They are also selling beauty products like nail hardener and foot-care cream to male clients. Stereotypes aside, Laura Douvan of Advanced Studio of Electrolysis in Toronto says that those interested in a waxed and polished look are primarily heterosexual men.

And these men appreciate quality beauty care. Vancouver fireman Bill Olmstead drove two hours from Lehighville to his favourite Calgary salon to get his back waxed every couple of months. He is not shy about it.



Yes, you've got to try my new manicures.

"You don't want the world to know you have hair growing out of your back," says Olmstead, "but it's a fact of life and the end result is most appealing."

Renee Koo



King's College University says 'No more'

Who wants the AJA?

After 30 years, the University of King's College journalism school has decided it's had enough of organizing the Atlantic Journalism Awards—in part because it has long worried about outgrowing the very media outlets that hire its grads. The decision may have come too late. This year's AJAs rode the Halifax school's powerful alumni: the New Brunswick newspapers owned by the Irving family of Saint John. The AJAs sit, bestowing on the New Brunswick Telegraph Journal—the flagship of the Irving chain—a special award for journalistic achievement in the province during the past decade. No one from the Telegraph Journal showed up to receive the hardware at the annual ceremony in Halifax on April 27. Managing editor Peter Haggart told the AJA organizers that the newspaper was declining the honour in protest against one of the judges, André Vermet, a former Montreal reporter who resigned under controversy from the Telegraph Journal last year. But staffers at the newspaper say a more likely reason for turning down the award was that the judges honoured the paper only for its past performance, from 1993 to 1998, when the Telegraph Journal had a different editor. The Irving brothers didn't and there. Editors at Montreal's Times & Transcript also declined that their reporters stay away from this year's AJAs. Times & Transcript editor Al Hague went even further: in an e-mail to Stephen Kimber, director of the King's school of journalism, Hague threatened never to hire another King's grad because of the school's questionable ethics in using Vermet as a judge. Said Kimber: "It seems vindictive, unaimed and petty to target students who are totally innocent." But that's exactly what King's feared was going to happen all along.

Julia Gribble



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The council cup runneth over

In the \$500-million package of new arts and culture funding announced last week by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, \$75 million over three years was promised to the Canada Council for the Arts. That's on top of the council's current funding, which comes to \$124.2 million this year. Much of that goes to support mainstream programs like mounting theatre festivals and publishing fiction. But here's a sample of some more cutting-edge projects receiving council support:

• **Marie-Josée Charlier**, Toronto, dance, \$15,000: "To research and develop a new work, *Scrambling Pages*, and participate in Issue Dowd's modern dance series."

• **Kimberley Cooper**, Calgary, dance, \$16,000: "To spend five months studying, creating and being created on at a crucial point in her career."

• **Agnes Szele Byk**, Winnipeg, interactive, \$25,000: "To create *Two Species Perceptions*, a hybridization of species and technologies towards visualizing trans-species perception."

• **Michael Alexander Johnston**, Peterborough, Ont., film and video, \$16,000: "To complete the project entitled *My Student Love*."

If you've got Scrambling Pages, Canada Council? get the funds

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Log Entry, Day 1: As first we test the immense responsibility of an mission to find superior software that will help our universe transition to existing technology systems that exist in our universe. Hope this mission will go well.



Log Entry, Day 4: We have detected a multiprocessor database somewhere in this building. Our sensors suggest that it can access, manage and analyze all forms of data - even audio and video. We need this database software (known as SAP) which works across Linux, UNIX and a major problem: throughout the enterprise and beyond. The unfortunate alternative: this is not.



Log Entry, Day 6: People here have the ability to leverage historical capital. They use "knowledge management" software to collect employee experience. Other employees can learn from and apply to valuable existing knowledge rather than laboriously relearning it. This "Learner" software promotes collaboration for more effectively than our "Finger of Knowledge" software.



Log Entry, Day 7: Inverse action. Inverse mode and bridges of the ability to (a) hidden address. It is vital here. The technology infrastructure is managed by "Task" software. It will not such integrated yet flexible technology management software in the parallel universe. The whole thing? modern in get here been needed.



Log Entry, Day 14: Today we committed ourselves to research in so doing, an "Innovative" software is chosen by most CEOs than any other in business software market. Why? Is ability to "manage legacy systems" to work across 35 platforms? Is the tools, the ease of deployment (the + experience capabilities)? To the man and when CEOs of this world, we say to you: we do not see your world right. We will not out.

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A homecoming tragedy

At 9 a.m. on Dec. 28, 2000, Arthur Kibanda was heading back home to spend New Year's with his family in Bajumbura, Burundi. After finishing exams at the New Brunswick Community College in Baillville and flying to Kigali, Rwanda, Kibanda was now making the last leg of his trip, a four-hour bus ride to Bajumbura. That same morning, Aimable Rutandana, a Rwandan-born Ottawa resident, was heading to Bajumbura via the same route but on a different bus.

In Kigali, the two old friends ran into each other. They had a quick chat and set out on their respective buses, promising to speak again at the Burundi border checkpoints.

When they arrived at the border, everyone had time to disembark while passengers' papers were checked. Aimable, 40, listened as Arthur, an energetic 21-year-old, spoke about some of his plans for the future, about how much he enjoyed his studies in New Brunswick and his excitement at getting together with his family. "Just look at you," and Aimable, "You've grown up to be an ambitious young man."

Arthur then returned to his bus, run by the Titanic transport company, while Aimable went back to his, run by the Venus company. Traditionally, the Venus vehicle would lead the way to Bajumbura, but it was delayed longer at the border and the Titanic bus departed first.

The two-hour drive that winds through Burundi's mountainous roads into Bajumbura is a stop-and-start affair. Tutsi military checkpoints can occur as often as every five minutes. The country is controlled by Tutsi—Burundi's minority population—and moderate Hutus. But extremist Hutu rebels, who compose the majority of the country's population, are fighting for exclusive power, which has resulted in years of bloody civil strife. According to Aimable: "You just never know who is going to pull you over. You may go through many checkpoints, but the next one might be a Hutu rebel checkpoint and that's why each time the bus had to stop, we would become a bit nervous."

On this day, it seems that the checkpoints were frequent enough to irritate the driver of the Venus bus, who was determined to get in front of the Titanic. As he was frantically making up the distance, a young boy asked if they could pull

over so he could relieve himself—the driver reluctantly agreed.

The final leg of this winding bus ride is the drive from a town called Bugurura into Bajumbura. The area around Bugurura is notorious for rebel attacks. Trailing Arthur's Titanic bus now by about a kilometre, the Venus vehicle came into Bugurura. They were confronted by a checkpoint that the driver was prepared to ignore. But the soldiers there gestured frantically for them to pull over. The soldiers informed them that rebel gunfire shots could be heard about a kilometre down in the valley.

As Aimable and the others got out of the vehicle, they saw, could hear the shots. They were concerned that the Titanic bus was the target of the attack—some had family members onboard. They used cellphones to call people on the Titanic, but got no answer. They waited for two hours, while the shots became less frequent. Eventually, a unit from Bajumbura picked up the injured and brought them to Bugurura. The Venus passengers looked on anxiously as the vehicles approached. The injured were from the Titanic and they had been shot up badly. The Titanic survivors confirmed everyone's worst fears: the rebels had brutally executed 21 of the passengers—including Arthur Kibanda.

According to the passengers, the rebels ambushed the bus by shooting at the driver and the tires. They got hold of the passenger list and started to call people out one by one. The passengers were told to hand over their money, strip down and lie on the ground. As some pleaded for their lives, the rebels would respond first by shooting them in the legs, then telling them to get up and run, after which they would shoot them dead. Their targets were Tutsis and foreigners—Hutus and most Congolese were let go. As Arthur's name was called out, he presented his Canadian passport and money and pleaded with the armed men that he was not part of the conflict. He was shot and killed.

Aimable Rutandana knows his bus could have easily been the target had it been the first through Bugurura. Instead, his friend, a terrific young man and a proud Canadian, died on what was supposed to be a joyful return to his birthplace. A memorial star for Arthur Kibanda has been set up by fellow students in Baillville, N.B. *By Josephine Ingham, St. John's, Nfld.*



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"They're as safe as the cars we design except the change stays in your pocket."

By Glenn Chan and Charles Lee, *Buller master Designer and Saturn L-Series Designer*

AFTER EIGHT YEARS of designing roller coasters we've had our share of loop-the-loops, corkscrews and coast hawks. Our job is all about designing deliciously terrifying moments for riders. But there's no question about it, safety is the priority. I suppose it's a bit like designing a car. Keep the thrill of the ride as high as

10 Be a Buckle: It's kind of funny, but a year ago when Glen and I were shopping for cars, we both ended up pulling into work to Saturn L Series. We're workers for safety so we were assigned by Saturn's Buckle Up 10 program to make sure you know shoulder harnesses and lap belts help keep you glued in your seat during your ride. Glen and I joined that the safety features of our cars are on level of parallel to those in a Saturn. Like the air-conditioning over our seats that help prevent smaller passengers from playing under the seat belt during impact. And we don't need to tell you that Buckle Up Air Bags and seat belts are the first line of defense. 20 Everyone walks away safely. Glen and I talk about putting the same air roller coaster design to ensure that change amplifiers never land but keep you in place. It's like they're not 17 animals that happened on about Saturn. They complemented these optional Dual Curves Air Bags that they use inflated versions on both sides of the front and

rear passenger compartment. They help protect against head injuries in a side collision. And every Saturn vehicle has a front and rear crumple zone to absorb and distribute impact energy to passengers. You have a greater chance of walking away from any mishap unscathed. That's a whole lot of safety designed in a fun and powerful ride. Which we think is important whether you're driving to work or meeting up with a friend for a night on the town.



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PASSAGES

Suspended: For his cheap shot that landed our New Jersey defenseman Scott Niedermayer last week, *The Devil* of the Toronto Maple Leafs was suspended for the rest of the playoffs and, if the Leafs are beaten by the Devils, for the first eight games of the 2001-2002 season. NHL vice-president Colin Campbell announced the disciplinary action after a meeting with 31-year-old Dora—a repeat offender—and after doctors had assured the severity of Niedermayer's concussion. Niedermayer, 27, lay motionless on the ice for five minutes at the end of Game 4 of the second playoff series before being carried off on a stretcher. The incident may influence NHL officials when they meet this summer to decide whether to ban hard-plastic-shelled elbow pads that, while designed to protect, can also be used as weapons.

Died: Bubu Chhiri shattered a world record last year when he climbed Mount Everest in only 16 hours and 56 minutes—shaving almost 3½ hours off the previous time. In May 1999, the Sherpa guide became the first to summit on the 8,850-m. summit for 21 hours without bottled oxygen—most climbers only stay at the summit long enough for photos to be taken. Chhiri, 35, was guiding some mountaineers on April 30, when he fell 30 m into a crevasse. Though it was a relatively short fall, he lay undiscovered for several hours and died of his injuries.

Awarded: Toronto author Erna Paris won the first annual Shugency Cohen prize for political writing—named for the outspoken Windsor MP who died in 1996. Paris, 65, received \$10,000 for her book, *Long Shadow: Trudy, Lou and History*, which examines how women's shape their historical memories, revising or repressing embarrassing facts from their past.



Recovering: Doctors at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., removed a cancerous growth from the lung of former Seattle *George Harrison*. The 58-year-old musician is now recovering in Tucson, Italy. This is not the first time Harrison has had surgery on his lung or been treated for cancer. In 1999, his lung was punctured when a man broke into his home west of London and stabbed him, and in 1997, Harrison was treated for throat cancer.

Haspitated: Supermodel Niki Taylor is in an Atlanta hospital after a car accident that severely damaged her liver. The 26-year-old was a passenger in friend Chad Renfro's car when he hit a utility pole while answering his cell-phone. Though Taylor was able to get out of the car herself, she later complained of abdominal pain and was rushed into surgery. The Florida-born mother of twin boys may have also suffered lung damage in the accident.

Charged: Country singer Tera Clark was charged with drunk driving after Nashville police stopped her for speeding. The 32-year-old Clark, born in Montreal and raised in Medicine Hat, Alta., admitted that she had been drinking, but refused to take a blood-alcohol test. She was named best female country artist at this year's Junos.

Awarded: Regus Daley, Toronto party chief and author of *In the Sweet Kitchen*, won the International Association of Culinary Professionals' Best Cookbook of the Year award. Daley also picked up the bread, other baking and sweets award for cookbooks.

Announced: Tennis Canada revealed that Martina Navratilova will come out of retirement after seven years to play doubles in this summer's Rogers ATP Cup, an international women's tennis championship. Navratilova, 44, has won 56 grand slam titles in her career including a record ninth Wimbledon singles title in 1990. The championship will be held in Toronto from Aug. 11 to 19.



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Tough love from Stockwell Day

Stockwell Day tried to quell dissension in his party by issuing a gag order to all Canadian Alliance MPs on the subject of his last college girlfriend's suicide. Not, if the case of veteran Calgary MP Art Hanger is any indication. After being demonized from his post as defunct critic, Hanger found himself suspended from caucus for continuing to call for Day to resign.



Dialing our telephone

But with a recent slew of high-profile MPs resigning their portfolios—former deputy leader Deborah Gray, former finance leader Chuck Strahl and former chief of staff Ian Todd—and more possibly to come, it's unclear whether Day can count on tough love to deal with the Alliance's family feud. Last last week, even with most Alliance critics of Day reduced to a whisp—*the now—*written B.C. MP Jay Hill spoke out in support of Hanger: “It’s unfortunate that Art has been further disciplined for reflecting what he feels to be the voice of his constituents.” Alliance? What Alliance?

Scolding down the fish war

Newfoundland's biggest company, Fishery Products International Ltd., was under new management after rebel investors won a drawn-out battle for control. Shareholders voted overwhelmingly to oust longtime



GO DOG GO

Sparked by the energetic Jewish Williams family, aka Jewk Third Dog, the Toronto Raptors achieved a franchise first: after six years. In the NBA, they won a playoff round, defeating the New York Knicks three games to two. Led by superstar Vince Carter, the Raptors won the last two games of the series.

chairman Vic Young, 55, and his director, and bring in a slate backed by John Riley, 53, owner of FFI and Clearwater Fine Foods Inc. of Halifax. Riley rejected pledges to expand, not close, plants in his drive for a better stock price.

Thilismann stays in Sudan

Defying denunciations by Sudanese refugees, Thilismann Energy Inc. CEO Jim Thilismann declared the Calgary-based company would continue its much-criticized oil operations in southern Sudan. Opponents

say oil revenues collected by the regime in Khartoum strengthen its hand in the civil war against southern guerrillas and contribute to the incidence of slavery. Besides, saying Thilismann does much for local residents, such as food schools and water projects, argued its withdrawal would simply mean another, potentially less sympathetic foreign company would take over.

RE.I. potatoes off the couch

It took a while to convince suspicious U.S. customs officials there was no potato wart lurking amid the eyes, but Prince Edward Island potato growers managed to assume shipment south of the border. The Americans had barred the goods seven months earlier after finding the fungus on a bunch from one location on the island. The two sides finally reached a deal allowing shipments from 80 per cent of PE.I. farms.

Message in a bottle

The Ontario government announced its controversial plan to install urine receptors for drug and alcohol addictions. Those who fail will have to submit to treatment to be eligible for their welfare cheques. Mike Harris' Tories backed away from a

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A MICROSCOPIC KILLER IN NORTH BATTLEFORD?

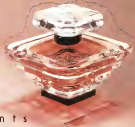
Less than a year after the Walkerton, Ont., tainted water outbreak killed seven and made 2,300 others sick, the 14,000 residents of North Battleford, Sask., are dealing with their own contamination crisis. Saskatchewan health officials say the deaths of three people between April 24 and May 2 may be linked to cryptosporidium. They found the microscopic parasite in the agricultural



community's water supply after they began investigating why so many were going to the hospital emergency room with digestive-system complaints. Cryptosporidium can cause diarrhea and cramps—and be fatal to those with compromised immune systems. Health officials issued a boil-water order on April 25 and at week's end there was no indication when it might be lifted.

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similar plan last November when critics denounced it as a ploy to put down the roughly 450,000 people on Ontario's welfare rolls—an argument they are bringing forth again. Currently, the new bill includes a provision requiring welfare recipients who struggle with reading, writing and math to submit to mandatory literacy tests.

Dial 911 for outrage

The Feb. 15, 2000, murder of two slain shocked Winnipeggers and outraged

women's groups. Now, they may finally learn how the incident—dubbed "the 911 murders"—after police charged the women were robbed red-taped while 911 operators listened on the telephone—could ever have happened. William John Dunlop, 32, was convicted on April 24 of murdering his ex-girlfriend, Corinne McKeown, 52, and her sister, Denise Leckie, 51, at the latter's home. Manitoba chief medical examiner will call an inquest to try to determine how the five emergency calls they made failed to save their lives.

ROOTS ON THE GROUND

Robt Canada Ltd., the clothing retailer that vowed to restore "fun and flair" to air travel, learned it's not fashionable to compete with Air Canada. The national carrier bought 85 per cent of SkyService Airlines Inc. of Toronto, the parent of Robt Air and shut down the airline the next day, less than six weeks

after it began its designer flights from Toronto to Calgary and Vancouver.

Analysts believe Air Canada will not tolerate anyone nibbling at its dominance of corporate travel. On the day of the purchase, it blamed most of its \$208-million first-quarter loss on widespread layoffs by high-tech companies that had killed its business traffic seats.

The deal with SkyService also permits



Air Canada's entry into the discount carrier business, which may send Ottawa's Competition Bureau into a tailspin. Battling the discount crowd might also prove difficult. In stark contrast to Air Canada, Calgary-based WestJet, a low-priced carrier that expanded its capacity by 67 per cent over the past year, announced a first-quarter profit of \$5.8 million.

The camera doesn't lie

An Ottawa police officer was suspended after the broadcast of a videotape showing him bawling a woman's head against a patrol car. The tenant of an apartment overlooking the street where the incident happened last November videotaped the beating, but did not release the tape until last week.

Guilty after all these years

It took 30 years to bring former Ku Klux Klansman Thomas Blanton Jr. to trial for the murder of four black girls in the 1963 bombing of Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church. But it took a jury only 2½ hours to convict him. Blanton, 62, the second of the four suspects to be convicted of murder over the incident, was sentenced to life in prison.

Defiant, B.C.-style

In B.C. Premier Ujjal Dosanjh's scolding defeat? When a opponent drew his attention to how badly the New Democrats were trailing in the polls—a recent Cansys Inc. survey shows 64 per cent of decided voters supporting or leaning to the Liberals—he didn't mount the slightest argument. "I understand what the numbers mean," he said. "You're not telling me anything new."

PUMPED-UP FEARS

In C Canada's economy, gas prices cost several nearby two cents in two weeks, some analysts worried about \$1-a-gallon prices by summer. But earlier forecasts and that wild price swing are putting up prices, the analysts say, to not be the price.

Price of regular gas last week, in cents

St. John's	86.9c
Montreal	87.9
Toronto	87.1
Edmonton	83.0
Halifax	88.1
Winnipeg	83.9
Regina	79.0
Charlottetown	79.4
London	74
Calgary	55.0
Wheat City	55.0
Vancouver	71.7
Victoria	75.4



Saving Our Schools

BY JOHN SCHOFIELD

On a bright spring day in Toronto, a weather-beaten candy wrapper blew silently across the schoolyard at Valley Park Middle School, disappearing into piles of trash. The place was a mess—in more ways than one. A month-long strike by janitors, secretaries and other support staff had virtually closed the country's largest school board, leaving buildings in disarray and 300,000 frustrated students and their parents to fend for themselves. Cockroaches and mice feasted in some deserted classrooms. In the washrooms, the intensity of the odour was stomach-turning. Not nearly as strong, however, as the anger outside. It was the third strike to hit the Toronto District School Board in the past three years. Last week, in the wake of back-to-work legislation, support workers grudgingly returned to school. But the city's students felt like the biggest losers. "It's been like a war every year," says Bronwyn Underhill, an outgoing 18-year-old in her last year at Malvern Collegiate Institute. "And that's not what education should be all about."

**MEET THE LOCAL
HEROES WHO ARE
ADDRESSING
THE CRISIS IN THE
CLASSROOM**

One hundred and thirty years after it was conceived by Egerton Ryerson, the first superintendent of education for what was then Canada West, Canada's public-school system is struggling under the strain of funding cuts, labour strife and the needs of an increasingly diverse student body. The signs of stress abound. Demonized teachers and support staff are leaving the system in droves. A growing shortage of teachers threatens to cripple the system. Statistics Canada estimates that school districts across Canada this year are already suffering from a shortfall of 20,000 teachers. Meanwhile, trustees,

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER MORRIS FOR MACLEAN'S



With increasing need, McLaughlin is reintegrating as inner-city Vancouver school.

hampering, by strict provincial funding formulas, are closing schools and cutting subjects once taken for granted, such as art, music and physical education, as well as many special-ed programs. More than ever, parents and teachers are digging deep into their pockets to pay for textbooks and classroom supplies. And as they do so, a growing number of Canadians are beginning to question whether the system can survive—and if so, how.

The road to salvation seems far from clear. Some provincial governments are turning to the marketplace for inspiration, demanding greater accountability, more standardized testing and wider school choice for parents. Innovative school districts, spurred by the funding crunch, are charting their own course for renewal. They have been joined by a new army of parent volunteers and activists, fighting to save the system.

An increasing number of parents, however, fed up with the fighting and a perceived decline in quality, are opting out. An estimated 80,000 families across Canada now educate their children at home. And in the past 10 years, the number of students enrolling in independent schools has risen by 23 per cent. Last fall, Halifax business administrator Terry Tormade and his wife, Janice Greene, a contractor, enrolled their seven-year-old son, David, in Bolind Elementary Academy, a new private school where tuition is set at \$3,800 and class sizes are limited to 16. "There are a lot of issues with our public schools here," says Tormade. "Now we don't have to deal with that anymore."

For the vast majority of Canadians, however, opting out is not an option. The public school system still serves 95 per cent of the country's school-age children. But too many of those students are falling through the cracks. Canada's high-school graduation rate at age 18 is among the lowest in the industrialized world. Public confidence in the overall system is at rock-bottom: in a Gallup poll conducted this year, less than half of the respondents reported that they are satisfied with the education that Canadian children are receiving. In Ontario, polling by researchers at the University of Toronto's Centre for Studies in Education shows that the percentage of those who believe public education is improving has dropped from more than 35 per cent in 1979 to less than 20 per cent last year.

The doubts are well-founded. Since 1995, the percentage of provincial wealth devoted to education has declined dramatically. While wealth provinces in Saskatchewan and Alberta are gradually beginning to reverse the situation, the situation falls far short of the hundreds



■ A founder of People For Education, and author of *Holly and Katie*, Kibler tracks how schools have been starved of resources

of millions of dollars cut from education across Canada during the 1990s. "The misery over public education is far more widespread than ever before," says Michael Fullan, dean of OISE and an expert on education reform. "But people are also far more interested in what we're going to do about it."

Racked by a steady stream of contentious school reforms, Ontario has emerged as the epicenter of discontent. Since 1995, the Conservative government of Premier Mike Harris has revamped the curriculum, imposed a strict funding formula, reduced the powers of school boards, increased the workload for high-school teachers, and threatened mandatory supervision of non-academic activities. Recently, it introduced a brand-new round of reforms that call for standardized testing in every grade, and offer more school choices for parents.

People For Education, a province-wide parents' advocacy group, has systematically chronicled how elementary schools have been starved of resources. In its most recent tracking report, the group reported that students in 66 per cent of the 980 Ontario schools surveyed had to share textbooks; special needs students in many cases were waiting more than a year for assessments; and 85 per cent of schools had only a part-time principal.

"There's an ad-hoc quality to these changes," says Anne Kibler, a Toronto mother of two and a founder of the group. "And there's a danger that we'll actually reform public education to death."

The turmoil spreads far beyond Ontario. In Nova Scotia last year, deep cuts to education ignited angry protests across the province, eventually persuading the government to soften the blow. Even so, school boards are slashing millions of dollars, schools are being closed and teachers are losing their jobs. Many Newfoundlanders are still smarting from the massive disruption caused by their province's move to non-denominational

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Edmonton experiments with a diversity of choice

When Phyllis Cardinal was a junior-high student in Edmonton, one of her teachers made a blunt assessment of her future prospects. "He told me I would never make much of myself and I should think about becoming a chambermaid," recalls Cardinal. The young Cree girl took the advice to heart. Cardinal, a nurse, had a child—and found a job as a chambermaid. "I lasted a week," she says with a smile. Cardinal subsequently earned a teaching diploma as well as a master's and PhD in education. At 45, she is principal of the Anisowitsch Academy, a predominantly aboriginal high school that is one of 29 "pockets of choice" offered by the Edmonton Public School Board. "The system hasn't worked for our people," says Cardinal. "To undo what was done in the past is a very difficult task."

Like all Edmonton public schools, the Anisowitsch Academy, which opened last fall and now has about 290 students, follows the provincial curriculum. But it also brings a unique aboriginal perspective to the task. Each class begins the day with a smudge purification circle and a prayer. The school year is divided into four aboriginal terms, based on the seasons, with elders providing guidance through anything, event, lodge, ghost dance and other ceremonies. The idea, says Cardinal, is to build the students' sense of cultural identity. "I think people who are successful," she adds, "are those who know who they are."

The Anisowitsch Academy was founded to address a very specific concern, a high-school dropout rate of more than 75 per cent among Edmonton's rapidly growing aboriginal student population. But it is also part of a larger experiment in school choice, largely in response to the challenge posed by parent-run charter schools and private schools, the Edmonton public board has dramatically expanded the number and variety of alternative programs offered within the public system. Today these include Christian-oriented and Jewish schools,



■ Battling a high dropout rate among aboriginal students, Cardinal's school fosters a cultural identity

an all-girls' junior-high program, a kindergarten to Grade 12 arts school and a Grade 7 to 12 program that focuses on Canadian studies and military history. Enery Dossell, the non-union executive director of Edmonton Public Schools, sums up his philosophy this way: "Serve your customers and they will remain with your system. If you don't satisfy them, someone else will."

So far, the approach seems to be working. Edmonton Public, which was losing students when Dossell took over in 1995, has gained them at a rate exceeding the population growth every year since. Even so, Dossell has faced criticism that segregating students according to race, religion or gender undermines the principle of public education. He counters that, because the alternative programs remain under the public umbrella, there is accountability. And in the case of Anisowitsch Academy, he adds, students whom both the public and private systems have often forsaken are now being served. "We will honour the kids who come out of that school as role models," says Dossell, "and they in turn, will push to turn things around."

Brian Bergman in Edmonton

schools. In British Columbia, a battle raged in shaping up between teachers and parent-appointed Gordon Campbell, who has repeatedly vowed to restore teachers' right to strike if the union fails on the May 16 election. In Alberta, most teachers' contracts expire on Aug. 31, and union leaders are making it clear they expect the same double-digit wage increases that the province has granted to doctors and nurses.

The union only compounds the difficulties of a system struggling to meet the needs of increasingly diverse communities. Take British Columbia's Richmond School District: students in the suburban Vancouver board represent 75 distinct languages and cultures. And thanks to the policy—now common across Canada—of integrating special-needs students in regular classrooms, Richmond has three times the provincial average of autistic children. The number of students in English-as-a-second-language programs has jumped from 300 a decade ago to 7,000. Add to that a liberal sprinkling of children with behavioural problems and troubled family backgrounds. "It's a much more complicated world than it was when I started in 1976," says David Chudnowsky, president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation. "Kids come

to us with many more complex home and social problems than ever before."

The challenges seem daunting, and many solutions are in desperately short supply. But from his base in OSSE's bunker-like building in downtown Toronto, Fullan has been juggling around the world for years, helping leaders in government and education revitalize their ailing public-school systems. Though far from a household name in his own land, the 60-year-old academic is recognized as one of the world's foremost authorities on educational reform. Through years of hands-on work, Fullan has proven that successful reform is achievable. But it is never an easy task. "There's a fair amount of inertia in the public-school system," says Fullan, a product of Toronto's separate-school system during the 1950s. "We've inherited a bureaucracy, and there are a lot of bad habits that have accrued."

In recent years, Fullan has garnered attention as the guiding light behind the unimpressive turnaround of England's public-school system. As head of the team evaluating the effectiveness of reforms at the elementary level, he filed three at least three times a year. The government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has based its approach on Fullan's belief that educational change is doomed without equal measures of government passion and comprehensive support for those on the ground. Schools must be given the tools to heal themselves. That's where governments often fall down because support requires strategically directed investment and a generous dollop of patience. "The time line for implementation," says Fullan, "is always longer than the next election."

Powered by his own passion for education as "the great mission," Blair began implementing his strategy for renewal within days of taking office in 1997. Working closely with Michael Barber, a former education professor at the University of London, Blair developed a plan that hinges on three main initiatives: the National Literacy and Numeracy Strategies at the elementary level; fundamental reforms to secondary education, due to



Fullan believes that educational reform is doomed without comprehensive support for those on the ground, including workers in Toronto last month.



trained in more effective methods of teaching reading, writing and maths.

Despite controversy over some aspects of the plan, including an initiative linking teacher pay and performance, the Blair strategy appears to be working. After four years, the percentage of 11-year-olds scoring in the top two levels of the national literacy test has risen from 54 per cent in 1996 to 75 per cent last year, and the results for numeracy are equally im-

pressive. In addition, students in the lowest performing areas of the country have exceeded the national average in literacy in only four years, while the poorest performers in numeracy have achieved the same feat in only two years. Sirs Barber, head of the standards and effectiveness unit in the department for education and employment. "The government is demonstrating that you can reform publicly provided education and it can win parental confidence."

The Blair reforms also bear Fullan's mark in other aspects, including the key role given to testing. While many educators today take aim at policy-makers for their apparent obsession with standardized tests, Fullan argues that testing based on clear standards can provide the leverage needed to improve the system from its slumber. In the age of accountability, he argues, testing is not going away. His bottom line? It's not the raw scores that count, but what you do with them. By pinpointing areas of weakness, testing can be a catalyst for improvement. "I think it's essential for the public to say, 'We want to know how our schools are doing,'" says Fullan. "But unless educators build up their ability to work with testing, it's going to be a bitter experience."

Even more important, England's emphasis on professional development underlines the essential role that teachers play in educational change, and the critical importance of collaboration in breaking down teachers' traditional isolation. Research shows that the impact of a released teacher on a child is much greater than enrollment in a particular school. Fullan's philosophy also recognizes the value of a

Sowing seeds of renewal

With tulips blooming in the playground and lettuce ready for harvest, it is hard to think of Gaudensville/Quigakukh elementary as a school under siege. But there is no denying it. Of the 185 students in this east-end Vancouver school, 52 per cent are First Nations (Quigakukh means "Grindstone" in a Nisqually-Nulak language), 30 per cent are recent immigrants or refugees. For years, the children at this school have had enemies: literacy and poverty, family dysfunction and the reality of low expectations, plus local

dealers, gangs and drug-dealing. In early 1996, another villain emerged: a former U.S. marine threatened to blow up the school and to shoot the principal, a youth worker and the mother of a student, his eight-year-old. He named them for months, until he was caught that May and jailed. The death threat exacted a toll: one-quarter of students and 60 per cent of staff left.

What has happened since is a bit of a miracle, like a spring garden. In the fall of 1996, Joe McLaughlin, a handy New Zealand transplant, took over as vice-principal and then, shortly after, as principal. He found a school still in trauma,

and there were other problems. The computer capability consisted of a clutch of outmoded Commodore 616s. The budget for improvements was minimal. The language proficiency scores were heart-breaking: 90 per cent of primary students in kindergarten to Grade 2 were functioning below their expected grade level. "God," says McLaughlin, "it was a hell of a year."

It was crucial to define the school's challenges, and to engage students, parents and staff in setting a new direction. The process was focused by a previously translated accusation paragraph—a periodic report card of a school's per-

formance. That helped establish that main goals: improving literacy and numeracy, upgrading computer technology and rebuilding the shattered community. The first two required money, the third, trust. The shift was simple but profound. That working for the community isn't working well is. From hot battles to school beautification, McLaughlin was determined that the school become a community resource. He and his staff looked beyond the cash-strapped neighbourhood for corporate help: computers from IBM and local law firms, a literacy grant from Starbucks, garden supplies from Horec Depot. An anonymous

benefactor from wealthy West Vancouver helped pay for an Open Court language program, introduced in 1997. The highly motivated phonics-based system has proved effective in inner-city schools with students lacking basic language skills. Within the first year, half the children reached their grade level. This year, more than 70 per cent should meet or exceed the score.

Then there is the garden. The inspiration of volunteer Elaine Povey, in a place of flowers, new trees, native plants and something more—24 community garden plots. The garden draws people who listen, creating a safe and welcoming

"hacienda" for a neighbourhood sadly lacking parks. Grade 7 student Senora Ismail, who has attended Gaudensville for two years, talks of returning in 50 years to find a flourishing garden. She is so confident of this as she is of her own future. In email, of Senora Ismail's dream, reads to be an Islamic scholar and a child psychologist. She shares her principal's enthusiasm. "We heard many people say most of these kids won't get past Grade 8," she says with a flash of anger. "I hate it. You're not going to tell me I'm not going past Grade 8. Come on, that's just not mean."

Ken MacQuinn is Vancouver

among principals is building an effective school. Last year, the Blair government demonstrated its commitment to developing top principals when it opened the state of the art New National College for School Leadership at the University of Stirling.

Oddly, governments in Fulton's own backyard have been slow to embrace his prescription for change. In a climate of fiscal constraint, the provinces have moved

quickly to make school districts more accountable, but have shown less enthusiasm for offering support. The missing link is money. If anything, support in the form of resources or teacher training has been chipped. Canadian educators who have heralded Fulton-style reforms have often missed on private funding.

A grant from the Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation and Fulton's personal involvement, helped speed up outstanding Canadian initiative in 1991: the Manitoba School Improvement Program Inc. Fulton directed the program's educational advisory committee for six years. The non-profit organization's mission is to improve the learning experiences and outcomes of secondary-school students by building a school's ability to engage them actively in their learning. At the behest of individual schools, MSP consultants kick-start a process of dialogue and exploration involving students, staff, parents and the community before undertaking a five-year commitment to provide assistance, including modest annual grants. In the early 1990s, Winnipeg's Glenora Collegiate sought help to reverse a spiralling dropout rate. Among other things, the grants were used to reshape curriculum and train teachers in new skills. Since 1992, the school's graduation rate has improved by 15 per cent. About 45 schools have agreed to maintain an ongoing relationship to promote continuous improvement.

"Schools define their own improvement journey," says Sharon Pollock, the program's executive director. "But change is slow, and it's really hard work. It's all about risk-taking."

Financed by \$750,000 in private funding this year,

The reading coach wears a blue baseball cap

Every classroom has its rules. The 19 kids attending primary at Churchill Elementary School in the outskirts of Sydney, N.S., must abide by a special one: don't bug Mrs. MacDonald when she's wearing her baseball hat. The hat is a signal for everybody to pay attention to their activities so that she

can oversee quiet jobs. Churchill, moreover, lacks a gymnasium, a cafeteria and a breakfast program and runs no co-curricular activities. It's the synthesis of a big, dull public school. And that may be precisely why it works. "This school doesn't have all the bells and whistles," says Kim Sadler, whose son Nathan, 16, is enrolled in Grade 5. "It just sticks to the basics."

It helps that the school has only 104 students—and that each teacher has an average of 20 students. But sticking to the basics also means early literacy is a consuming priority for a five-member teaching staff, who share the same innovative approach to teaching Dick and Jane their ABCs. "We have a fortunate meeting of the minds," says principal Bob MacInnis, who also teaches Grade 1. Like all schools in Nova Scotia, Churchill meets the requirements set out by the provincial government and the local school board: two hours daily of reading and writing; a program that teaches students at a pace and using materials that fit their individual literacy level. But the teachers at Churchill also implement some of the early-reading strategies that MacInnis learned while working as a Reading Recovery expert to help problem readers. And, despite dwindling funding, the staff have been willing to scrimp to acquire new books for students in the lower grades.

The goal is not just to teach children to read and write. At Churchill, recess in the classroom is also a way of building confidence—a critical asset for children growing up in an economically depressed city. That explains the mums that MacDonald's primary students appear at the start of every day: "I am proud am proud I will try my best I will be kind to my friends I will be good manners." At this school, sticking to the basics is meant to inspire the soul as well as the brain.

John DeMont in Sydney



MacDonald takes her students back to the basics

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the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board's Beacon School program also relies on a spirit of dialogue to engage schools more closely with their surrounding neighborhoods. Established last year, the initiative gives principals at 20 schools, all with a high percentage of needy students, new freedom to foster community partnerships. Coonrath's Public School, for instance, serves downtown Ottawa's low-income neighborhoods, and its catchment area includes emergency housing. Ten to 15 per cent of its students are technically homeless at any given time. In Suzanne Schreier's kindergarten class, the teacher is scrambling eggs—representing what may have been a meager breakfast for each child, and her lessons "With her pupils sitting politely at low tables with

one in how we handle things," she says. "You can't stand alone anymore."

Elsewhere, as in England, educators have responded to challenging times by expanding the role of the principal and giving schools more independence. By offering a dramatic degree of autonomy to principals and their schools, Edmonton Public Schools have earned an international reputation for providing choice within the public system. The board offers 31 distinct programs, including two Christian schools, a soccer academy and a Spanish academy. Fully 58 per cent of students attend schools outside their catchment areas. While the pros and cons of choice we fully debated, Edmonton superintendent Emory Dossall is convinced he's giving local families

what they want, and that his principals and teachers are key to the board's success. "Ninety-two cents of every available dollar here goes to the schools," says Dossall. "I hold my principals accountable to get the results."

In the final analysis, says Faller, the only meaningful result is how well school systems narrow the achievement gap between their most- and least-ad-



vanced students. No system is better positioned to do that than public education. "If you're not working on closing those gaps," he says, "you'll have an underclass that's not surviving in the system. There will be greater revision, greater crime and greater health bills." A society's success in providing that first comes down to whether its leaders see education as a cost or an investment—and how much it really values its youngest members.

"Everyone says our most precious resource is our children," says Dossall of Edmonton Public Schools. "But that's a myth. If they believed that, our spending priorities would be a whole lot different." Among the many lessons of school reform, this one may be the most basic.

With Ken MacQueen as Vancouver's mayor, Benjamin as Edmonton's and Sue Ferguson in Toronto

one may be the most basic.

With Ken MacQueen as Vancouver's mayor, Benjamin as Edmonton's and Sue Ferguson in Toronto

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A photo exhibit captures the magic of a prime minister's early years in office

Photography by Peter Bregg

Trudeau Remembered

Mecklen's Photo Editor Peter Bregg first started covering Pierre Elliott Trudeau at the Liberal leadership convention in 1968. After Trudeau became prime minister, Bregg continued to follow him, as a photographer with The Canadian Press and Associated Press. He has fond memories of that time. "Trudeau liked to do everything," Bregg recalls. "My first trip with him was in July, 1968, up to the Arctic. The Prime Minister's Office said not to eat anything—we would eat on the plane. The first thing they served was skink. I was 19 years old, from Hull, Que., and they wore my first shirt and I loved it, sitting at 80,000 feet with the prime minister of the country. Then the next course was Chinese food and the steward handed me chopsticks. I looked at them and quietly asked for a knife and fork. The PM overheard me. 'Don't you know how to use chopsticks?' he asked. 'No sir,' I replied. 'Well, here, I'll show you.' So I can claim it was the prime minister of the land who taught me to use chopsticks."

Films of Bregg's favorite Trudeau photographs, some never published, make up his exhibit *Adieu to Pierre Trudeau (the Early Years)*, running from May 7 to 19 as part of the Contact 91 8th annual Toronto Photography Festival. Mecklen's presents some of the images, with Bregg's reminiscences.

■ "In August, 1970, Trudeau visited the Northwest Territories. Here, he is standing below Virginia Falls. He had a habit of holding his plane bag enough for you to get your pictures. He was carrying a new photographer's dream. He couldn't take a picture of that guy without it becoming a front-page picture."





■ "This picture from the October, 1972, election campaign hasn't been published before. In the early days, nothing that happened on the prime minister's plane was considered off the record. The PM came back to our section and, for some reason, just stuck his tongue out. I made one lucky shot."



■ "Trudeau showed up wearing a silk summer-weight suit with a suit at the time, 1968, garden party at Rideau Hall. U.S. ambassador W. Wilson Rushworth is wearing the protocol clothing of the day. In the years following, people stopped wearing the formal attire and I think Trudeau set the style and protocol for what followed."



■ "During the 1972 campaign, Trudeau encountered some angry protesters in Chicoutimi. One guy was very vocal. The prime minister reached out, pulled a placard out of his hands and tore it in half with a big smile. The look on the demonstrator's face is clear: 'How can a prime minister do this?' Trudeau wasn't a very shy person—when people were screaming, he wasn't beyond screaming or shouting back, often putting them on the spot. He wasn't afraid of anyone."



■ "The PM would sometimes walk to the Centre Block for Question Period. Security wasn't as critical as it was after the War Measures Act of 1968; once in a while people, like these schoolgirls in 1965, would recognize him. One young girl wanted to know what it would be like to touch a prime minister. She reached out, poked him in the arm and then ran off screaming, 'I touched the prime minister! I touched the prime minister!'"

WHEN GOOD COWS GO BAD



Yusuf's first daily task is to fill a feed bin with silage for the cows to eat.

By John Ivins in Woodstock

With the coming of spring, new calves at Friesale Farms have emerged from the barns to see their spindly legs in pastures growing greener by the day. But Friesale's peaceful image hides a harsh reality that begins at sunrise when owner John Yusuf starts his workday. His first task on this 400-acre dairy farm near Woodstock, Ont., is to fill a feed bin with the silage that he has stored in the highly toxic pink liquid before pouring on plastic shoe covers and a pair of clean overalls. During this spring of discontent, such precautions are grimly repeated across Canada as besieged farmers ponder a nightmare: the feared arrival of foot-and-mouth disease.

Since the outbreak began in Britain in

February, nearly 2.6 million sheep, pigs and cows have been destroyed there. The disease, which causes blisters around the feet and mouth of cloven-footed animals, has also spread to the Netherlands—where another 80,000 animals are set to be put down—and to Ireland and France. And

Canadian farmers fear foot-and-mouth disease will soon spread to Canada

even though the number of new cases of the disease has slowed of late, the carnage has cast a long shadow over Canada's \$5.5-billion livestock industry. Many believe it is only a matter of time before the scourge reaches Canada, and they claim the gov-

ernment is not doing enough to prevent it. "If even one case is discovered, the borders will close and I will be shut right down," says Yusuf, 42. "Walking through his pole barn, which shelters a herd of 800 cattle, he notes many farmers dread the approaching tourist season—and the possibility that a visitor will bring the highly contagious bacteria to Canada. "If it's found near my farm, my family might as well pick up and walk away," says Yusuf. "The government would exterminate everything. It would be all over for us."

Gordon Macgown understands Yusuf's fears. In 1952, Macgown's grandfather's cattle farm in Jenner, Alta., was sealed off for 18 months when foot-and-mouth struck during the last outbreak in Canada. "They couldn't buy or sell anything," says Macgown, 45, now a rancher running 500

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'If it's found near my farm, my family might as well pack up and walk away. The government would exterminate everything. It would be all over for us'

head of cattle on the 1,800-acre One Tree Ranch, near Parkia, Alta. "They always said it took them the rest of their lives to recover. We can't let it happen again." More than money is at stake. "Just look at Broun," Maugrove adds. "Thousands more are way up because people are watching their lives being destroyed. The same thing would happen here."

Across Canada, many prestigious cattle shows, including the 28-year-old Ontario Holstein Spring Show, have been cancelled because of fear the disease could be carried here by a buyer from Europe. There are concerns that Ontario's world-famous Royal Agricultural Winter Fair held each November may also be postponed.

"Those running the shows have asked Europeans not to come to make sure nothing crazy happens," says John Martin, co-owner of Northwest Holsteins in Woodstock, Ont. Like Yasutaka, Martin, the owner of a 200-acre spread, is taking no chances. He too has asked visitors to disinfect and wear protective clothing.

Canada's position as a world leader in cattle genetics means Canadian farmers should benefit in the long term, providing new cattle and, for example, bag quarters remain whether British farmers will be able to afford new stock—or if they will even want to rebuild an industry so hard hit in recent years. First by mad-cow disease and now by foot-and-mouth, Now, even though North America so far remains foot-and-mouth free, Canadian dairy farmers are starting to feel an economic pinch. Martin, who operates his family's 70-year-old farm with his father, Doug, says just before the outbreak he sold a cow for \$25,000 to an English buyer. "The cow is supposed to have been shipped to England already but with the bug in place it's not going anywhere," says Martin,

who estimates that foot-and-mouth will cost him up to \$100,000 in sales if the crisis lasts into fall. "If this drops on, I'm sure he is going to ask for his money back."

Similarly, at Boudle Farms in Cambridge, Ont., the four Dutch-Canadian brothers who own and operate the busi-



■ Then royalty came close to a special disinfectant and where Prince Charles stepped off the plane for his recent Canadian visit

ness have put the sale of \$50,000 worth of cattle embryos destined for Britain on hold. Worries over the disease have also slowed trade within Canada. The problem: Farmers say there is no guarantee the expensive animals they buy today will not have to be destroyed as a new method of the disease reaches Canada.

The danger is expected to grow as warmer season marches in summer peak. While airports are taking precautions—with mats to disinfect shoes and boots—

farms are still concerned someone will slip through the cracks. (Sniffer dogs have also been deployed at airports to search out food products arriving from Europe that could contain live-and-mouth bacteria.) Frédérique Mondin, a veterinarian with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency in Ottawa, says the government is well aware of the threat and is expanding information campaigns to make people aware of the problem. But that does little to ease farmers' concerns. "I was talking to someone who flew into Denver from Europe just because he got a cheaper flight," says Yasutaka. "Then he came across the Canadian border with no questions asked."

Being near an airport deeply troubles 66-year-old dairy farmer Paul Elmore, who operates Quality Holsteins in Woodbridge—only 15 km away from Toronto's Pearson International Airport. "You can't be paranoid, but you have to be careful," he says, glancing solemnly at the pictures of his prize-winning dairy cattle covering the walls of his home office. "All it takes is one mistake."

Worried farmers have already forced the federal government to keep some Europeans out of the country. In early April, pressure from "Silent" protesters forced the British entry to cancel a visiting mission for 1,000 British troops at CFB Suffield in southern Alberta. A second exercise scheduled for June could also be cancelled. "If they don't get things together in the U.K. by June," says Maugrove, "we're going to start holding again."

Others are frustrated with the example set by Prince Charles, who visited Ontario, Saskatchewan and the Yukon in late April on an entourage of 35 people—most from Britain. It was not enough, they say, that he neared some disinfectant before stepping onto the red carpet upon his arrival in Ottawa. "Why did he have to come over now?" says Paul Binton, a 58-year-old cattle breeder from Cambridge. "British farmers would never think to travel right now. It is way too big a risk." With foot-and-mouth still a threat, Canadian cattlemen are in for a long autumn summer. ■

'GOD'S COUNTRY'

Former Negro league players found their fields of dreams in small towns across Canada



By Michael Sauter in Brantford

There was a time when Jimmy Wilkes was so fast he could chase down a fly ball in deep centre field that looked like it was going to be a sure triple. Wilkes was so fast that when the 19-year-old Philadelphia native broke into the Negro leagues in 1945, his teammates called him "Sesibiscuit" after the thoroughbred that burned up the track during the Great Depression. Now 75 and living in Brantford, Ont., near the diamond where he finished his playing days, Wilkes recalls those times

as he looks through yellowed newspaper clippings and faded black-and-white photos. "Fast, oh yeah," he says. "I'd get on first, you might as well put me on second. Just the same as a double."

Wilkes turned his professional career with the New York Eagles after a short stint in the army during the Second World War, and in 1946, helped his team win the Negro League World Series against the legendary Satchel Paige and the Kansas City Monarchs. Over the next few seasons, he played with and against fi-

ture Hall of Famers Josh Gibson, Roy Campanella, Larry Doby, Hank Aaron, Jackie Robinson—before heading north to sign up with the Brantford Red Sox of Ontario's Interscholarship Major Baseball League in 1956.

There's Paige. Satchel struck me out three times in a row. He was tall. Had big arms on top of you and broad. The ball would be right there. And Josh. Josh Gibson. He was the Babe Ruth of our league. He could

this was a long way. If they would have broke the colour line earlier, he would have broke all kinds of records in home runs.

The **Brantford team** loved Wilks with a city public works job by day and, for \$500 a month, a chance to play ball under the lights at night and on weekends. Tired of life on the road and sidelined by the storm he experienced on road trips in the Deep South, Wilks jumped at the chance to cross the border. Wilks was one of dozens of black ball players who migrated north to Canada's semi-professional teams after the U.S. Negro leagues slowly died when Robinson broke the colour barrier in 1947. Some returned home over the years, others played out their careers in Canada. A few, like Wilks, became citizens and never looked back.

It was a new experience living here. It was Great country. And all I can say I didn't have any trouble like I had down there in the States, no racial things. It was always surprised how well people liked us. They always treated us well.

For decades, black players had suffered from Jim Crow laws that enforced segregation in such public facilities as schools, restaurants, hotels—and ball diamonds. Although organized baseball never formally banned black players, major-league teams simply never recruited them. Locked out, black players formed their own leagues, which began to flourish in the 1920s. At-



probase, and players are just ready for the big time or past their prime signed with Canadian teams like the Brantford Gips in Maricopa, the Indian Head Rockies in Regina and the Brantford Red Sox.

Jackie was well educated, and didn't want what they wanted him for. Encouragement? Oh, yeah. We were watching him real close. It was over due. Why over due?

It was a better life in Canada for the black Americans, says baseball historian Bill Humber, author of *Diamond of the North, a Century History of Baseball in Canada*. Local baseball, according to Humber, a teacher at Toronto's St. George's College, relied on civic boosterism and private entrepre-

neurship before the U.S. Civil War or seeking a better life afterward. American blacks settled in such towns as Chatham, Ont., Africville, N.S., and Amber Valley, Alta., where they formed local teams. An all-black team was sufficiently established in London, Ont., as early as 1869 to play against barnstorming American all-white clubs making their way through southern Ontario from New York City to Detroit.

But by the end of the century, social tensions divided much of Canadian baseball along colour lines, and for the next several decades, segregation was the norm. Baseball's integration half a century later did not put an end to racial undercurrents in Canadian ball parks. In the 1950s and 1960s, according to Humber, black players on integration teams experienced racism similar to those in the United States. "Omnibus historically tended to shade the same cultural outlook in the northern U.S. states," he explains, "and black players were told, among other things, not to fraternize with white women." Still, for most blacks Canada's muted racial prejudice was preferable to the more blatant experiences south of the border.

With farm teams down there to make money for the team. Well he didn't want to be in Mississippi. Oh, boy. Rough, rough. One time, I finished a ball off my foot. It really hurt and I fell to my knees and someone in the crowd

men who felt obliged to put money back into the community. Some teams could afford to hire talented ball players like Jimmy Wilks. Explains Humber: "They'd say, 'Look, we can't pay you what they pay in the minor or major leagues, but we can provide you with a job and security and the chance to play a pretty competitive level of baseball.'" In turn, the imported ball players drew thousands of fans.

Even before the postwar arrival of Negro league veterans, Canada had a century-old rich history of black baseball. Escaping

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'I still won't go today,' says Wilkes, who turned his back on the South

started yelling at me to get up and was saying the N word. I don't mind being called black or a Nigger, but I don't like the word nigger. We also had to put up with walking on the other side of the street, back of the bus and way like that. Even when I got signed with the Dodgers organization, they had to bring the food to me in the bus. With me on the bus and sleep on the bus, I guess we couldn't eat in no restaurant; all we'd get in the big room. Then we'd find colored diners.

In his prime, Wilkes was good enough to catch the eye of the Brooklyn Dodgers. In 1950, they wanted him to spring training, where he rubbed shoulders with Robinson, Campanella and Don Newcombe, but the



Wilkes played with baseball teams banned from the major leagues because of their race.

Dodgers had Duke Snider in center field and Wilkes was sent to the minors, playing in towns from Trois-Rivières, Que., to Elmira, N.Y. Two years later, when the Dodgers wanted him to play with their

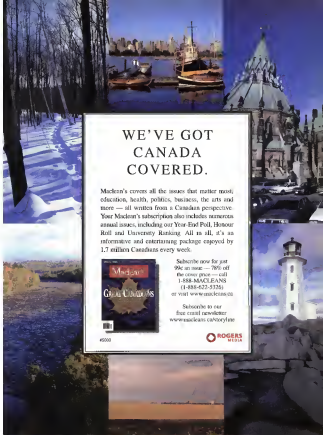
Double-A affiliate in Birmingham, Ala., Wilkes asked for his release, refusing to step foot again across the Mason-Dixon line. "I said, 'No way,' he recalls. "I still won't go today." Instead, Wilkes signed with the Indianapolis Clowns, a black barnstorming team financing a 18-year-old infielder named Hank Aaron, whose low-line drives would go from home plate to the outfield wall without scoring more than a foot.

We had a rough schedule. After the ball game, each team, you'd go to the grocery store and buy some sandwiches and eaters and buy the bus for the road for the next game. Only once you had a hotel was on the schedule, where you'd go to sleep the night before a doubleheader.

Travelling through Upstate New York and southern Ontario in 1953, Wilkes impressed Bedford coach owner Larry Pennell that he seemed an immediate offer to come north. Wilkes spent a year later as a 28-year-old and spent 10 years with the club, five of which were championship seasons. In 1964, after the last season, he traded in his bat and run for an umpire's walk, travelling the minor-league circuit and officiating games for the next 27 years.

After the fifth championship, I said, "Well, boys, it's time to hang 'em up." I was almost 40 and I could see myself slowing down. They started giving me going down to first base. I was getting out by my cap when usually I'd be across the bag. And in the outfield, I'd usually be waiting on the ball, but I was just getting there.

The memories came back with ease as Wilkes sat in his kitchen. One us above all others: the seventh game of the 1946 World Series against Pudge Monahan. Kansas City had taken the first three, but Wilkes's Eagles had come back to tie the series. "We were leading them," he recalls. "They had two men on, and Buck O'Neil was at bat. He hit a ball high, to left center, for sure it would have been a triple, and I went and got it. He said to me after, 'You little son-of-a-bitch. You won the World Series for them.' That's why they put me out there. If it was in the ball park, I'd get it." In his memories, Jeremy Wilkes can still fly. **B**



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ANATOMY OF AN EXECUTION

By Robert Sheppard in Terre Haute

In a dewey, verdant field in rural Indiana, a few thousand people will join a dark spring night next week waiting for the sun to come up and a man to die. Inside an otherwise nondescript brick building a few hundred meters away, about 40 others will hear direct witness to the execution, from the four glassed-in viewing rooms at the federal penitentiary just outside this small midwestern town. Another 300 or so, family members of the 168 men, women and children Timothy McVeigh killed with a truck bomb in Oklahoma City six years ago in the worst act of terrorism on American soil, will take in his final moments on closed-circuit television at a second prison in Oklahoma. But make no mistake—although only the disgruntled will actually see McVeigh succumb to a dose of lethal chemicals at shortly after 7 a.m. central time on Wednesday, May 16, this is a public occasion of the first order. An entire nation will be watching for the final word, much of it on breakfast TV.

On the fewing grassy knolls that surround the prison proper, a hodgepodge of concoctions of satellite trucks, wedding-sized tents, cable trails and cellphone towers is being assembled to service nearly 1,400 members of the news media, many there for an almost week-long death-watch. Given the logistics involved, some are calling it America's first ordered execution.

Just after midnight on May 16, buses will begin making a few from a few hundred to a few thousand demonstrators—the pro-death penalty crowd and the abolitionists—to designated "processing points" (a warden Harley Lippin has to call them) on the 33-acre prison site. The groups will be at least 500 ft apart, connected by makeshift trails through the fields to be travelled only by accredited media on golf carts—no more than three into per news organization is the rule Lippin has laid down. Golf concessions will be on hand for those family members who witness the execution, public relations officials for those who wish to be guided to the media tent. The entire event has been meticulously planned for



On May 16, Timothy McVeigh will die in an Indiana town. The event is already becoming a circus

months by at least three different federal departments and local authorities—hyper-organization creeping in where solemnity fears to tread. Leave aside for the moment the emotionally charged debate about capital punishment—Americans are more than willing to take that one on. The unspoken element of the McVeigh execution is that it is a triumph of inactivity, where both the victims' rights movement and the mainstream press have joined these with their hands on the syringe in the formal gleaming. Throw in a dollop of ever-present midwestern politeness, with its constraints "y'all" and milk-fed graciousness, and what's left is a kind of McDeath, an extraordinary event made ordinary with a nod to transparency and conveyor-belt efficiency.

Of course, the McVeigh execution is highly unusual. In recent years, with the annual number of executions in the United States creeping up into the high 90s—nearly two per week, most of them in southern states like Texas and Virginia—the death penalty has become a topic of heated discussion in sunny quarters. But there has never been



anything like this. Across the United States, columnists and TV pundits rage about whether the 33-year-old McVeigh should die—quickly or slowly—or be forced to waste away in a federal pen, Canadian-style, so he doesn't become a martyr for his cause. "Execution's too easy for him," says the cherry lady at the checkout counter at a Terre Haute motel. "That's just exactly what he wants." One side debate: the American Society of Newspaper Editors turned aside White House pleas to tone down the McVeigh coverage, saying the media doesn't need a civics lesson from a President who presided over 131 executions during the five years he was governor of Texas.

And so the hype picks up its pace. All last week, local television stations broadcast home videos of McVeigh as a youngster—a Boy Scout who went bad. A court action to allow Internet and pay-TV broadcast of the execution was turned down by a judge, but some public stations and the ABC-TV program *Nightline* and recently acquired audiotapes of executions that took place in Georgia between 1983 and 1998, recordings that showed all too clearly the mundane bureaucracy of a public death.

And in Terre Haute (population 59,000), ground zero of this latest drama, the good citizens have been subject to an ever-increasing dearth of sleep (well, unless finances struck them for being here to this event) and worse, constantly having to explain themselves to a descending horde of foreigners who can't understand American fascination with capital punishment. "They say you have to play the cards you're dealt," Judy Anderson, the county commissioner for Terre Haute, said recently at a ceremony to plant 168 redwood saplings, the same one of Oklahoma, in her county. "I know the whole situation is a necessary evil that we have to deal with."

Terre Haute didn't ask to be the site of the only federal execution chamber in the United States. That was a result of geography. In the early 1990s, when the U.S. government decided to consolidate its relative handful of federal death-row inmates (26 versus the approximately 4,000 in the individual states) in one institution, it chose the

although few people will hear direct witness to the Oklahoma City bomber's final moments, this is still a very public event



Can Bay Street SURVIVE?

Scandal and hot U.S. competition threaten Canada's financial houses

BY KATHERINE MACKLEM

Greater at the Canadian Club of Toronto last week is usually a straightforward, let's-get-on-with-it kind of prayer. It doesn't normally address current events. But last week, as the elite of Canada's investment industry stood around tables draped in white linen and bowed their heads, Rev. Canon John Erb prayed for *Almsgiving* help for "those who deal with the riches of others." He spoke of the integrity and high ethical standards that prevail in the investment business, but allowed that sometimes they are abused. "We ask for guidance and strength to those who are tempted to skirt such standards," intoned the minister, touching down on a subject front and center for this high-powered gathering: the insider trading scandal at Canada's largest brokerage house, RBC Dominion Securities, owned by the Royal Bank of Canada.

The scandal, which involves around Andrew Baskin, a 36-year-old executive suspended without pay after his name was linked to suspicious stock trading, is the most prominent, but it isn't the only disgrace on Bay Street these days. Investment advisers at another long-established firm, BMO Nesbitt Burns, are accused of besetting securities rules in their handling of customer accounts. The industry's own

watchdog, the Investment Dealers Association, recently was slapped by the provincial regulator for being too slow with complaints. On top of this pall of dissonance, the industry is aware it is losing its hold on the Canadian capital markets. In the face of changing technology and—Quebec City promoters notwithstanding—the unstoppable advance of globalization, Bay Street is worried about its own survival.

Stanley Hunt is packing back and forth behind his desk. "Tell them exactly what you just told me now," he says into the phone. "They don't need a whole lot of theorizing. Just tell it to them straight." Hunt, a negotiator of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement and last year Brian Mulroney's chief of staff, is now chairman of Salomon Smith Barney Canada Inc., the Canadian arm of one of the world's largest securities firms. He's speaking to a room of U.S. investment bankers, coaching them for a pitch they are going to make to a Canadian company. The New York City-based bankers want to propose a takeover deal and the group is discussing strategy. "We don't want to overwhelm them, we'll take a small team," Hunt says, still pacing. He suggests they try to get management inside and say they'll talk to the CEO—"He's a friend"—and then they will approach the board of directors.



Photo: Associated Press

Later, Hunt declines to provide any detail about the potential transaction—not only would he jeopardize the deal, he'd be passing on insider information, which is strictly verboten. But he does allow that what he is doing comes at the expense of the Canadian securities industry. And he acknowledges that in the long run, this is a regret for Canada. He says the Canadian securities firms are being crowded out on their own turf by companies like his—powerful, primarily U.S.-based investment banks, many of them owned by banks. In Salomon's case, it is part of Citigroup, a massive organization whose total assets amount to a staggering \$1.4 trillion—\$300 billion

more than the assets of Canada's five major banks combined. "I make a living financing companies that the Canadian bankish-investment dealers can't," he says, adding "Bay Street is falling behind."

Stripped of resources, the business of Bay Street is fairly simple: It's all about money. Dealers and brokers use capital, usually from individuals and institutions that want to invest, and hand it on—to public companies to expand or make an acquisition, or to governments, which promise to repay with interest. There's also the secondary market, essentially stock exchanges and bond markets, where individuals and institutions trade securities

already issued. Factor layers of finance back in, add quasi-impenetrable jargon, and the world of high finance becomes an almost closed, Byzantine, secretive society. But in business, as in everything else, detached from the daily lives of Canadians as it may appear, it is critical to a strong economy. The capital markets are the gears of the economy's engine—without money, things come to a grinding halt. And business goes elsewhere.

Already, Canadian companies increasingly look south of the border to raise capital and make deals. Many Canadian businesses list their stock not only in Canada but also on the Nasdaq or New York stock

exchanger three times as many today as 20 years ago. Of the \$164 billion in merger and acquisition business in Canada last year, two-thirds involved a deal with a U.S. company. And of the \$62 billion in equity raised by Canadian companies in 2000, about half came from foreign markets.

The impact shows. The Toronto Stock Exchange, once the temple of capitalism in Canada, is no longer sacred. Nasdaq, as part of its global ambitions, is now open for trading in Montreal, while smaller, more nimble electronic networks are ready to come into Canada from the United States once regulation clears the path. The TSE has responded by joining with the New York

The Street's power lines play a critical role in keeping the economy strong

Stock Exchange and others to negotiate a worldwide, interconnected, round-the-clock trading network. It's also buying the Calgary-based Canadian Venture Exchange for \$50 million—a move designed to lock up the Canadian marketplace.

Canada's investment houses are also finding the pinch. As investors and corporations look to the United States to do business, they also look to a firm that can carry them there. And while the Canadian dealers say they can do that—most have U.S. offices—the statistics tell a different story. In 1999, Canada's top 10 investment firms were all Canadian-owned. Last year, only five firms were Canadian. Four were U.S.-based, the fifth a Swiss bank. Even more telling are the 10 largest corporate equity financings in 2000. Five of those issues were underwritten by four U.S. giants. Only two Canadian firms show up, with Dominion Securities far outstripping the field with four deals, and CIBC World Markets taking one. The upshot? Many of the best deals—the biggest, most lucrative ones—are going overseas.

THE TORONTO STOCK EXCHANGE IS NO LONGER SACRED

gates Michael Wilson, the former Conservative finance minister and now a powerful investment banker at the Royal. In the late 1980s, Wilson's deputy finance minister was Stanley Hart. Today, the two are competitors. Wilson says he is not fearful of the growing competition from south of the border. "I don't think you'll find Canadian firms saying," Wilson wrings his hands in mock worry, "Geez, we'll never be able to beat these guys."

Before politics beckoned, Wilson was executive vice-president of what was then called Dominion Securities Ltd. After Ottawa, he returned to the firm, but like most other major brokerages, it had been bought by a bank. Wilson says these moves, now commonplace, were entirely new prior to the 1980s and his government's Free Trade Agreement. The Canadian capital markets are more sophisticated than those of countries of similar size, partly as a result of rub-



STRAIGHT TALK

"I make a living brokering companies like Canadian banks can't," says Hart. "My Street is falling behind."

bing up against the U.S. industry, he says. It is good for the Canadian economy that Canadian companies can tap into the U.S. market to finance their growth, he adds, even though it means market capitalization is being siphoned off to the United States.

In July last year, Wilson left his post as vice-chairman of RBC Dominion to take on the job of chairman and CEO of RT Capital Management Inc., the Royal Bank's embattled pension fund management arm. His unenvied job was to bring an area of unquestioned mastery to the firm, which was at the center of a high-profile scandal involving trades who had been manipulating stock prices. His mandate is to sell the division, a move the bank insists it was planning well before the scandal broke. Wilson says he's come to understand, as he steps the fund manager around the United States, that RT Capital is as good as the American companies he's talking to, regardless of size. The same goes for the Canadian investment banks. Wil-

son argues that the Canadian advantage is they will send their A-listers to competitors. Canada looking for investment banking services, while the U.S. firms' top people are generally focused on larger players.

Not so, responds Tom Gunn, who, as chief investment officer of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System, is a major client of the brokerage houses. Gunn is responsible for one of the largest pools of capital in Canada—OMERS has assets of \$37 billion—and he has a bird's-eye view of the investment business. "I find I get the A-listers," Gunn says of the U.S. firms. "The Canadian A-listers can be very good, but let's remember, if you're trying to build something, that's going to go around the world, surely you want to go and deal with the people who know the most about the world." The U.S. firms bring greater expertise and greater placement power, he says. "I'm not Canada-bashing," Gunn insists, but he says the difference is beginning to show. "Buy Street" could become a bench plant.

When asked what's needed, Gunn brings up an old solution—one that could ease last year's pain when long-enslaved financial services legislation was adopted. A merger of two Canadian banks, he says, could provide the bulk needed to become a bigger, global player in investment banking. Hart agrees. "In a room with under 20, my desire to make a giant bang at the expense of the Canadian banks," Hart says, "Canada needs bigger banks. They should not be prevented by their governments from being players in a global league."

In other words, one caution: For the Canadian investment banking industry to thrive, perhaps that's what's called for. A little Divine intervention, too, wouldn't hurt. ☐

THE MONEY TOP 10

In 1999, based on all-Canadian bid, net in 2000. Now on the top 10 investment firms in Canada (with foreign ownership noted) and the total value of the underwriting deals.

	\$billions
1. RBC Dominion	\$18.8
2. TD Securities	12.8
3. Scotia Capital	8
4. BMO Nesbitt Burns	7.5
5. CIBC World Markets	6.5
6. Merrill Lynch (U.S.)	6.4
7. Citicorp Smith Barney (U.S.)	3.2
8. Salomon Smith Barney (U.S.)	3.1
9. Goldman Sachs (U.S.)	2.5
10. Morgan Stanley Dean Witter (U.S.)	2

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Tech

Playing with reality

A pioneering online game gets right into users' lives

By Michael Snider

It's a little past midnight when the phone rings, jarring your attention away from the television. Your wife is asleep and the dog lifts its head as you rush to pick up the phone. A voice, cold and menacing, warns you to stop your incessant digging into matters that don't concern you, and—chilling you to the bone—threatens your wife by name. What's happening? Is this for real? Possibly a hoax perpetrated by some callous friend? Not this time, it's the roared voice of an actor deployed by an online computer game called *Majestic*, which hopes to blur the lines between reality and fantasy—and turn its players into conspiracy-theory, paranoid freaks.

The concept, the boldest ever attempted in the computer gaming world, combines elements of *The X-Files* and the 1997 Hollywood hit *The Game*, in which a business tycoon played by Michael Douglas believes he is under siege thanks to an entertainment company hired by his brother in a complex birthday gag. *Majestic* will require rarer suspension of disbelief when it begins next month, but it aims to use an arsenal of modern communication devices to recruit and integrate players. The backlist of gaming giant Electronic Arts Inc., it could herald a new generation of subscription-based online games potentially worth millions.

Majestic gets its name from an ultra-secret organization allegedly founded in 1947 to cover up UFO landings in the United States. After registering with the game—and providing all the details necessary for the experience—users downloaded a small application and installed it on their PC.



Images from *Majestic* recall the Michael Douglas movie *The Game* (below)

(making it harder to register someone else). By phone, fax, e-mail and online instant messenger programs, the system will deliver hints and clues that eventually draw players closer and closer to the heart of a nefarious, all-encompassing government coverup. Technological advances in artificial intelligence promise to make a late-night phone call seem quite real.

In a sample scenario, a player might receive a video message via e-mail containing instructions to visit a Web site belonging to a government weapons contractor. After a little digging, the sleuth

discovers a project codename buried within a top-secret memo. Now, a fax message received three days earlier makes more sense. Redialing a long-distance phone number is contained, the player again hears a menacing voice demanding a password. This time, the codename from

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Tech

The Web site provides access to a voice-mail box, which reveals the company's plan to wait off someone who seems to be investigating the project—the player himself. Hence, the threatening phone call. (The game, rated "mature" for over 18s, can also be set to call at more agreeable times of day.)

So how real is it? That seems to be moot, but the company has hired 30 actors to produce voice and streaming video clips. "The success is going to have to depend on the strength of the story and the quality of the game," says Neil Young, Majestic's co-creator. "It will have to get into people's heads and match with solid characters." Electronic Arts, based in Redwood City, Calif., has requested hundreds of fax and phone numbers around North America and has created everything from diary entries to cop reports to fake Web sites. In fact, some have even questioned the existence of Arma-X, a Beaverton, Ore.-based company credited as the game's developer. Daily Radar, a game review site, says the company may be one of Majestic's elaborate fakes.

So far, "tens of thousands" of people—the company has no firm figure—have been curious enough to sign up for regular updates about the game's status. Even so, Electronic Arts' subscription-based business model is unproven. The company has invested an estimated \$6 million in the game's development and will charge a \$15-a-month subscription fee. Phil Lee, head of worldwide studios at Electronic Arts' Burnaby, B.C., development headquarters, admits there's a risk. "You can never know for sure when you pioneer a new idea."

The company plans to launch a first pilot in mid-June and says it has the first two of eight episodes complete. The pilot will last about three to five days, and an average episode will take hard-core gamers about two weeks to complete. But Majestic played in real time, meaning if one of the characters says he'll send a fax next Thursday, it would arrive next Thursday—or an episode could occupy infrequent users five up to a month. Lots of time to find the truth, which apparently is all out there. ■

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Tech Explorer

Getting cars to cough up mileage

Summer is a time for long vacation drives and, almost surely, paying more for gasoline. But Montreal-based TerraLogix Inc. thinks it has a partial solution—in TerraClean engine treatment, used to optimize mileage. To make TerraClean, TerraLogix distills ordinary gasoline, removes additives and adds oxygen, yielding a cleaner-burning concentrate. Treating an engine with the enriched fuel removes carbon deposits from the catalytic converter, fuel-control oxygen sensors and gummed-up fuel injection, reducing emissions and wasting less gas. "There are lots of similar products out there," says John Farrugia, a Petro-Canada service manager in Mississauga, Ont., who uses TerraClean, "but this is the only one where we could see the difference right away."

McLaren had TerraLogix treat a 1991 Acura Integra that had about 170,000 km on the odometer. Tailpipe emissions were independently checked before and after the 30-minute treatment. To perform the \$129 cleaning, a technician first tops into the car's fuel system. The TerraClean distillate is then electrically charged in a pressurized cylinder to improve combustion before being fed into the engine. Afterwards, emissions declined substantially, with ambient hydrocarbons, an indicator of wasted fuel, dropping by 71 per cent. Carbon monoxide fell 49 per cent, nitrous oxides 81 per cent. Geoff Spidle, TerraClean's general manager, says the treatment should be done annually and improves mileage by between five and 16 per cent. "It's kind of like getting the phlegm out of your lungs," says Spidle.

Best of the Web

The Webby winners themselves are the Oscars of the Internet, and Web site operators covet nominations as much as Julia Roberts does. This year's crop includes three high-profile Canadian outfits. In the games category,



Spidle cleans an engine's demand

MyVideoGames.com features award-winning reviews of new and old offerings and invites players to post their own assessments. Among broadband destinations, *120seconds.com* is the CBC's online effort to attract young people with innovative animations, videos, games, music and links. *Meditation.com*, a health category nominee, offers comprehensive health-care information to patients, physicians and instructors. Winners, as picked by judges from the International Academy of Digital Arts and Sciences, will be announced at a ceremony in San Francisco on July 18.

Danyle Hawickobla

COOL SITE

Better e-business

Nervous about buying something online from a retailer in another country? The U.S. Federal Trade Commission and some foreign partners hope to ease those concerns with *www.consumers.gov*. The site allows shoppers from around the world to complain about a company in another country. Government agencies may then use and share this information to combat fraud and uncover trends. There are tips for safer shopping, and contact for consumer agencies in 21 countries.

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To fully understand radial tires, one must go back over half a century. Up until the mid-1930s, most were of cross-ply or bias-ply design. The cross-ply, which is the part of the tire underneath the tread that forms the foundation, was positioned so the cords ran at angles to each other across

the tire, in a cross cross manner. But that cross-ply design restricted lateral stability at high speeds, offered very limited road grip and produced a large amount of flexion between the tire and the asphalt road that would often result in rapid tire wear.

Fortunately, MICHELIN developed radial tire technology in 1946. Unlike the cross-ply design, the radial tire's plies were positioned so the cords ran alongside each other in a series of concentric bands or "hoops" across the tire. This allowed the tire to flex and absorb the irregularities of the road surface. They also produced much less flexion, resulting in longer tread life, better steering, handling and ride comfort.

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THE PROFILE



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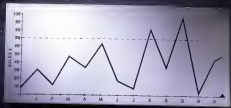


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People

Edited by Shonda Drael

The tattooer's tale

When Chris Kirkpatrick of *N Sync* decided he wanted to start a girl's clothing line, he hired the Canadian tattoo artist who had left a lasting impression on him. Three years ago, Dany Daniels tattooed Kirkpatrick and the other members of the band—who were celebrating their first CD going platinum—in Toronto. Kirkpatrick was so impressed with the artist's work that in

1999 he approached Daniels about changing canvases—from skin to cotton. "I love Dany's visions on things," says Kirkpatrick, 29. "His concepts are so out of the ordinary." The then 24-year-old Daniels was happy to move from tattooing to design the graphics for Kirkpatrick's Canada or Future



Kirkpatrick's got the ink for business

label, Future Skins—which is sold in Canada at Future. Kirkpatrick had had no problem combining his side project with his day job. When the clothing company recently launched a small line of men's fashions, they were able to convince a certain pop supergroup to wear the Future Skins gear in their *For 'N Sync*, it is a chance to match their outfits with their tattoo



The *Different* from left, Kirkpatrick, Gyllis, Griff and Van Zant

Girls just want to have fun

They may seem like your average indie rock band touring endlessly across North America, but the four Edmonton women who make up *Painting Daisies* are anything but. They study French, play basketball, wrestle and do physics experiments from the top of their van. And that's nothing: their Daisy Blue Griff, Rachelle Van Zanten, Carolyn Fomowsky and Kim Gryba—aged 20 to 30—work do to keep one and promoted while spending three-quarters of the year on the road.

Touring steadily since last July to promote their second album, *Forever*, the band is getting a buzz going in the alternative music scene—drinks to their enigmatic mix of funk, blues and rock 'n' roll. But they are also careful not to neglect the other parts of their lives. Both Van Zanten and Fomowsky are doing university courses on the road and all take their hobbies and sports very seriously. "You have to have a well rounded life in order to be in a band," says Van Zanten. "Otherwise, you can get bogged down, jaded and burnt out."

It is not an easy way to make a living. Two gigs pay a month's rent back home and another covers food. Friends and fathers for the van and each member works when they are back in town. They fill fish, eat meat, paint houses and pour coffee. But more than anything else, *Painting Daisies* rock.

House that Oprah built

Before the phone call that changed New England author Andre Dubois' life, his book was doing extremely well. It took four years to write and 22 publishers to convince it, but *The House of Sand and Fog* was a New York Times best-seller and into an eighth printing of 30,000 copies. Then, Oprah Winfrey's assistant called to tell Dubois his novel was chosen for her book club. The sixth printing was \$50,000—ordered days after the eighth—and the book has sold more than 1.5 million copies. Says Dubois: "There is something



What if it's all one big author's dream?

holographic about the whole experience." Set in California, the book follows three tragic figures fighting over the ownership of a house. It is a bleak yet riveting story one that even inspired Dubois as he was writing it. "A big part of me didn't want to write a dark story," he says. "But I think our psyches have an appetite for darkness. Suffering is a big part of living." For Dubois, though, things are looking up. A short time after writing the 41-year-old father of three is taking next year off to write full time and build his own house. "Oprah has been a godsend," says Dubois. "I've received all my kids Oprah."

How the faulty findings of an eminent pathologist led to erroneous murder charges and ruined lives

DEAD WRONG

BY JANE O'HARA

THREE YEARS AGO, when Dr. Charles Randal Smith settled into the witness box of the Kingston, Ont., courtroom, he looked perfectly at home. He'd brought along his teenage daughter to watch him testify at this preliminary hearing, even though it was not exactly family fare. The tall, grey-haired pathologist, who since 1992 has run the Ontario pediatric forensic pathology unit at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, was there to provide details of the gruesome death of a Kingston girl.

Crown prosecutors viewed the case as one of the most sensational child murders ever in Canada. Their theory was straightforward: on June 12, 1997, Louise Reynolds, a 28-year-old single mother from Kingston, had killed her seven-year-old daughter, Sharon, by stabbing her more than 80 times with a pair of scissors. Reynolds's motive? Prosecutors argued she was angry at the child for bringing head lice.

For Kingston police and Crown prosecutors, Smith's opinion was crucial. His 10-page report on the autopsy he performed on Sharon's perforated body was the linchpin of the second-degree murder case. But it didn't hold, just over three months ago. In late January, Smith's theory was totally discredited when the Crown abruptly dropped the murder charges against Reynolds. This, after numerous experts—some hired by the Crown—disagreed with Smith and concluded

instead that a powerful dog had maulled the girl. By then Reynolds had spent 3½ years in custody because of the outlandish charge. Now she is suing the 51-year-old Smith, Toronto dental oncologist Robert Wood (who advised the prosecution that the marks did not look like dog bites) and the Kingston police force for \$7 million. But in dismissing that case weeks, it is just one of at least six to cast doubt on Smith's expertise.

Now, the alarm bells are going off. Smith himself has voluntarily stepped down as autopsy for the coroner's office and asked for a review of his work in the Reynolds case and in another Toronto child death case that depended on his opinion. Ontario deputy chief coroner Dr. James Cairns, has had Crown prosecutors and defence lawyers informed that his office is "more than



Smith [above] testified Sharon Reynolds [below] died of severe wounds. It was a dog attack. But Louise Reynolds [under arrest, below] spent years in custody



welling" to have independent experts examine Smith's findings. The review Smith requested, he added, would have happened in any case. "It has to be done," said Cairns, "but it's obviously not something one does jumping up and down for joy."

The consequences in two controversial cases were particularly dire. In Tillamook, Ore., a family was bankrupted by the \$150,000 cost of defending a 12-year-old girl against a wrongful charge of manslaughter, based on Smith's testimony, that took almost three years to resolve. "After this case, we owned nothing," says the girl's father, who sold the home he had built and cashed in his retirement savings to pay for her defence. And in Sudbury, Ont., a young woman was ruined by the accusation of killing her child, while her father was hounded by \$100,000 in legal costs to discredit Smith's testimony.

All of which raises some thorny questions: How did Dr. Charles Smith become the man almost solely responsible for investigating suspicious child deaths in Ontario? How has he managed to keep that position? And how does his discredited reputation square with the reality of some damaging attacks? His boss, Ontario chief coroner Dr. James Cairns, declined to discuss Smith's current work. "Mostly," he wrote, saying, "There are too many other matters that need to be resolved in and around this case." Pleased to comment on Smith's general performance, he replied: "He's been involved in a number of complex and important cases and I think he's always tried to do his best to offer expert advice to the court."

The questions surrounding Smith's performance are all the more important because his opinion carries great weight in court—as much as that defence counsel often has to go out of the province to find the expertise to counter his autopsy reports. In a recent case in which Smith's evidence against a Toronto woman charged with killing a young boy in her car is under review, lawyers for the defence found other doctors reluctant to take him on. "You don't consider the Hospital for Sick Kids and you don't consider Dr. Smith," says criminal lawyer Dymondson Boustaff. "It's not career enhancing. A lot of doctors are reluctant to say anything publicly against him."

Smith is a maverick in the courtroom. His curriculum vitae runs for 22 pages and he is well known for his "definitive" approach to pediatric pathology. "His manner during testimony—blatant and sometimes pleading—is persuasive, based over a decade as Ontario's top forensic expert on suspicious child deaths. In the mid-'80s, he taught law students how best to examine expert witnesses like him." In 1994, he told The Canadian Press that his forensic unit had a higher hearing success than colleagues in Alberta when it came to getting convictions against child killers.

Smith's track record for convictions is well known in the small, tight-knit world of Canadian forensic pathology. But is that necessarily a matter of pride? The job of a forensic pathologist, says Dr. Thorbenrich Balchandra, Manitoba's chief medical examiner, does not include taking anyone's side. "Not the prosecution. Not the defence. Not even the side of the dead." At times, there is no clear motive of a crime, says Balchandra, and the cause of death should be recorded as "undetermined." "It is crucial to be cautious and objective, he says, because a faulty autopsy report can send innocent people to jail. "We have the power to ruin people's lives and destroy families," observes Balchandra. "We must be very careful."

Smith's involvement in the case of the Tillamook girl brought harsh commentary from the bench as long ago as 1991 (page 62). Ontario Provincial Court Judge Patrick Dunn criticized him for not even following his own prescribed autopsy procedures in securing the

Grade 6 student of *thinking* a 16-month-old baby's death. Cairns, the deputy chief coroner and a close colleague of Smith, dismisses Drann's criticism. "The judge," says Cairns, "didn't understand the medical evidence."

Smith's involvement in another tragic baby death on a fall afternoon for a grief-stricken single mother in Sudbury, Ont. In 1999, university student Louise Gagnon (now Louise Thibault) was brought to court to answer with the sudden death of her 11-month-old son, Nicholas, while in her care. A police investigation ruled on first play. But a year later, after the Ontario chief coroner's office asked Smith to review the case, he came to a startling conclusion: homicide. "In the absence of an alternate explanation," he wrote, "the death of this young boy is attributed to blunt head injury."

Smith also recommended that the Sudbury police begin a "thorough investigation." Then, on June 25, 1999, he exhumed the baby's body, so his own 11-year-old son watched. After perform-

ing would "provide a good life" to the little girl it had attempted to take. Said the CAS: "At this time we are of the view that the death of Nicholas Gagnon was an unexplained tragedy."

Thibault has found it hard to recover. "This experience changed my life forever," she says. "I no longer trust anyone who has power over someone else's life. Thanks to Dr. Smith, I now think of Nicholas as a case study or an autopsy report, not simply as my precious son."

Cairns, who has worked closely with Smith for a decade, calls him "a wonderful man" in the investigation of child deaths. "He's a friend. I admire his work and he is greatly admired at the Hospital for Sick Children," Cairns told *Maclean's*. "He's done a tremendous amount of good over the years. His sincerity is beyond approach." Smith himself did not respond to numerous interview requests from *Maclean's*. Cairns and the recent controversies have taken a toll on Smith. "He's not one of those Teflon people who says I don't give a damn what people say," said Cairns. He noted that his colleague had been involved in many successful legal cases.

- In 1996, two crack-addicted parents, Michael Podniewicz and Lisa Olsen were convicted of murdering their six-month-old child in Toronto. Smith, who had found evidence of multiple fractures, testified the child died of pneumonia, surviving from the injuries. "It was the only case where I had a conviction of a husband and wife for murdering their child," said Cairns.

- In 1984, when a three-month-old baby died in Collingwood, Ont., a coroner ruled it sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). Ten years later, Smith exhumed the body when evidence of abuse came to light. After performing a second autopsy, Smith reported evidence of multiple fractures and said the baby died of asphyxia. In 1998, the mother, who had been charged with manslaughter, pleaded guilty to sexual causing bodily harm.

- In 1998, an Ottawa father was convicted of killing his eight-month-old son after Smith's forensic findings showed 6 skullings of child abuse. Originally a pathologist deemed the child had died of SIDS. But Smith exhumed the body and did a second autopsy—which showed evidence of a recent skull fracture, a broken arm and lacerations.

Smith also has his supporters among defense lawyers. Thirteen years ago, Charles Ryall, a Niagara Falls, Ont., criminal lawyer, encountered the pathologist while defending a man who ultimately received a four-year sentence for manslaughter in the death of his nine-week-old son. Smith did the autopsy on the child and testified about the injuries in a Willard, Ont., court. Ryall was so impressed with Smith's evidence he congratulated him after he left the stand. "I told him that he'd done an excellent job as a witness and a pathologist and that it was a pleasure to have been in court with him," said Ryall. "Just because he made a mistake in the Reynolds case doesn't mean he makes a mistake every time."

Most Sundays, Smith is a pillar of another community. He is an father in a newly formed evangelical congregation that meets in a high school auditorium on Redwood Road, 30 km north of Toronto. Two years ago, Smith and his wife, Karen—a family doc-

THE BOOK OF @BUSINESS, THE SECOND CHAPTER

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Exhibit A: square wheel



Exhibit B: e-square wheel.com

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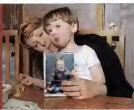
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Smith said he was '99-percent certain' Thibault killed her young son

Master suspicion, she lost custody of their son, Nicholas



ing an autopsy, Smith concluded that Nicholas had died from blunt swelling, "consistent with blunt force injury," although he later conceded he could not rule out asphyxiation.

The Crown and did not lay charges. Smith, however, told *Chal* death's *Ad* Society members he was "99-percent certain" that Thibault, then pregnant with a second child, had killed Nicholas. The CAS agreed to take custody of Thibault's unborn child and placed her name on its list of known child abusers. When the given birth, Thibault was not allowed to be alone with her newborn daughter, Nicole.

With that, Thibault's father, Maurice Gagnon, began a legal battle that cost him \$100,000 of his savings to clear his daughter's name and get her baby back. Ultimately, over doctor's own independent report took issue with Smith's findings. Dr. Mary Cox, the medical examiner in St. Louis and a leading authority in the war against child abuse, ultimately dismissed Smith's opinion about a blow to the head. "There are no findings on which to make such a conclusion," she stated in a report she wrote for the Ontario chief coroner's office.

CAS officials did an abrupt about-face. They asked the court to drop all wrongdoing proceedings against Thibault and took her name off the Child Abuse Register. In a letter to the Gagnon family's lawyer, the society expressed sympathy saying it was now confident

not and pure-time concert in nearby Aarons—left their old parish and volunteered to help start the local church in part of their mission to bring new converts to the Christian & Missionary Alliance. It's a Christian denomination that emphasizes "world evangelization" and boasts 2.5 million followers in 40 countries. While Charles Smith chatted with churchgoers after the service, Karen tells us: "I was one of the people who were there."

The couple have two teenage children and the trappings of middle-class pickup truck and SUV but he and his wife have no home. FRISIC and CORONER. They live in a two-story house, painted light blue, on a farm in Queensville, Ont., 60 km north of Toronto. There, in an area surrounded by hobby farms and lush golf courses, Smith raises cattle and takes refuge from a job that entails deterring children who have met horrible deaths.

Smith graduated in medicine from the University of Saskatchewan in 1975. He completed his training in pathology at the University of Toronto and by 1980 was certified as an anatomist, pathologist, and specialist who analyzes cells and tissues to identify diseases. (In 1989, he also received U.S. certification in pediatric pathology.) He joined the staff of the Hospital for Sick Children in 1981 as one of a number of hospital pathologists on general rotation responsible for examining tissue samples and performing autopsies on children who died of natural or non-natural causes. By the early '90s, he was doing coroner's autopsies on children who had run zeddes or suspicious auto.

Canada has no system for accrediting forensic pathologists. Now, increasing numbers of Canadian pathologists are going through rigorous accreditation programs in the United States and Britain. But never, like Smith, have learned on the job. In 1992, the Ontario coroner's office created a pediatric forensic pathology unit at Sick Kids and Smith was installed as director. He has a full-time position at the hospital (earning \$168,458.50 last year) and works part time for the coroner's office.

In the Kingston coroner's in April, 1996, as on so many other days he has testified, Smith began reciting his findings in a long dissertation that it seems sounded like a lecture. Sharon Reynolds, he noted, died from "multiple stab wounds." The seven-year-old had been gravely scalped, he said, probably with a pair of scissors. Smith was confident and in control. "When the prosecutor tried to ask a question, Smith admonished him: 'It's not just your right to accuse the *murderer*?' Digital version, and then you may want to spend a little while on more detail."

As Smith described the "stab wounds" on the upper arms, neck and head of Sharon's body, Louise Reynolds listened anxiously. The

10 months since her arrest, she had been held in a segregation unit at the Quaker Detention Centre. After learning to Smith describe stab wounds on her daughter's body that she knew were not of her making, the Grade 8 dropout came to her own conclusions about the forensic pathologist. "Dr. Smith didn't know what he was doing," she said later. "I thought he was an idiot."

From the beginning, Reynolds had maintained her innocence and police never found a murder weapon. Besides, there was another explanation for how Sharon died: A pit-bull terrier named Hot Truck—owned by Sharon's stepfather—was in the basement the day the girl died. The Kingston police told Smith before he started the autopsy that the dog was in the house. "No no autopsy was made to take records of the dog's teeth to match them to the wounds. During cross-examination, Smith testified when Reynolds's lawyer, Wayne Rumble, repeatedly suggested the wounds were caused by a dog, 'I suggest that you're absolutely wrong,'" replied Smith. "This doesn't look like a pit bull or any other common animal. These wounds have been caused by a sharp instrument."

But Rumble had two ace up his sleeve—experts who said Smith had it wrong. One was Dr. Ben Ferns of Vancouver, a British-trained forensic pathologist. After studying the crime scene and the autopsy photographs, Ferns wrote in a report shown to the Crown that Smith's evidence was "either wrong or unconvincing." Robert Dodson of Montreal, a forensic dentist, was just as damning in a report critical of the other proceedings. A founding father 25 years ago of the American Board of Forensic Odontology, the organization that certifies forensic dentists, Dodson has studied thousands of dog bite cases. In his opinion, this was a classic example of dog bite wounds.

One giveaway, Dodson says, was the identical pattern of perforations on the inside and outside of the girl's upper right arm—marks clearly made by a jaw clamping down. "Imagine the scenario if it were stab wounds," says Dodson. "Can you imagine someone stabbing so many times on the outside of the arm, and then lifting up the arm and stabbing to many times on the inside of the arm? It doesn't make sense. Even his own descriptions of the wounds told me they were bite marks."

The verdict of justice grinded slowly. Just last Jan. 25, fully 21 months after Smith testified, the Crown withdrew its murder charge against Louise Reynolds. Smith had amended his earlier opinion after attending a second autopsy on July 13, 1999, conducted on Sharon's skeletal remains by Ontario's chief forensic pathologist, Dr. David Chisum. There, Chisum concluded that some of the marks were dog bites. Smith, too, came to that point of view. "After the second autopsy," Chisum told *Maclean's*, "he did not change that many of the wounds were dog bites." The prosecution then sent Sharon's bones to University of Tennessee forensic anthropologist Steven Symes, the leading North American expert in

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tool-mark evidence. Smyke's reported conclusion: there were no marks of any sharp instrument other than Smith's scalpel blade during the original autopsy.

Kington Crown attorney Bruce Griffith explained the prosecution's change of heart in court: "Dr Smith's original opinion had

been unequivocally none of the wounds were dog bites," said Griffith. "The Kingston police had relied on that expert's opinion as to the cause of death of the child." When Smith reversed himself, the prosecution case collapsed. Concluded Griffith: "The Crown no longer has proof that this death was caused by stab wounds. We are duty bound to withdraw this charge." With that, Louise Reynolds won free.

Since then, Smith has faced a number of

challenges. Among them are the review of his part in the Reynolds case, and Reynolds' civil suit against him. In the second case under review, an experienced Crown prosecutor, Frank Armstrong, took the rare step in January of asking for a judicial review of proceedings against a 28-year-old Toronto woman. Margaret Laidley was charged with killing the three-year-old son of her boyfriend. A trial, and Armstrong, might result in a miscarriage of justice. Laidley says the boy had been jumping off a couch, slipped and banged his head on a marble coffee table. But police arrested her after Smith told them that injuries like that cannot cause death. With the charges stayed, Laidley is planning to sue Smith.

Laidley's lawyer, John Scrutton, says other lawyers working on cases involving Smith have been talking to him. Toronto lawyer James Todopoy, a director of the powerful Association in Defence of the Wrongfully Convicted, wants to unite in the review of Smith's case. Todopoy believes that given Smith's record in the Reynolds case, "there is now good reason to be concerned with the validity of his opinions in other cases."

On top of that, Ontario's College of Physicians and Surgeons is considering two complaints, one from Maureen Gagnon and the other from the father of the Timmins girl, about Smith's performance in the Sudbury and Timmins autopsies. And other Crown prosecutors in Toronto seem cautious about Smith's autopsy evidence. In February, just before the pathologist was to testify, Crown attorney Rita Zaid delayed the preliminary inquiry of a couple charged with murdering their three-month-old child. Prosecutors wanted an independent determination of the cause of death. Says Young: "That doesn't necessarily mean there's a problem at this point." On March 21, the Crown sought to adjournment of another upcoming murder trial in Toronto in order to have an independent expert review Smith's findings.

In February, before deciding not to answer any more questions from *Maclean's*, the Ontario chief coroner defended Smith's work. "Expert opinion is never a matter of right and wrong," Young said. "A lot of people assume that one person is wrong and one person is right, and it's just not that straightforward. There are opinions." ■

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THE BABYSITTER DIDN'T DO IT

As early as 1988, an autopsy by Dr. Charles Smith was at the centre of a major judicial storm. That is when police in Timmins, Ont., relying on his judgment, charged a 12-year-old babysitter with manslaughter in the death of a 16-month-old baby girl in her care. The girl (who can be identified only as S under the Young Offenders Act) and the child fell down a flight of five stairs and landed on her forehead, then went limp and non-responsive. Brought to the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, the baby died of brain injury. No autopsy was done. After interviewing the babysitter, Timmins police concluded the death was an accident. But three weeks after the baby died, and after discussing the case with colleagues at Sick Kids, Smith obtained a coroner's warrant to exhume the body and conduct an autopsy to determine cause of death.

On Aug. 19, 1988, Smith reported his autopsy findings verbally to the coroner's office, asserting the death of a child under the 12-year-old, he concluded, had shaken the baby to death. Four months later, police charged S with manslaughter. But according to his own writing on the subject, Smith had not followed basic procedures for arriving at his conclusion, including not obtaining a complete set of X-rays of the baby's body.

Smith also failed to talk to the doctor who had performed head surgery on the baby when she was rushed to Sick Kids hospital. And he made his initial diagnosis even before examining any-*sample evidence under a microscope.* But

defence experts said his most critical oversight was denying the importance of a deep bruise on the baby's forehead—the area of impact where the babysitter said the 16-month-old fell.

In his autopsy report, Smith ruled the death was due to head injury. Then, in an unusual gesture, he travelled the 560 km north to Timmins to tell the Crown, the police and the parents of the dead child that the injury was caused by shaking. Reluctantly, the police charged the 12-year-old. "This is the hardest thing I've ever had to do in my life," said Denis Lavigne, now the police chief in Timmins, as he read the 12-year-old her rights.

At the trial, which lasted 30 days spread over 15 months, Smith took the stand for five days. There, he was emphatic in his belief that children cannot die from the type of short fall described by the babysitter. The weight of medical literature, he said, was on his side. In concluding the baby had been shaken to death, he expressed full confidence to the court. "I wish there was doubt," said Smith. "There is simply no doubt. There is only one conclusion I can come to."

To defend his daughter, the babysitter's father went into overdrive. "With Smith's testimony, the Crown thought the case was

going to be a stem dunk," said the father. So he sought the opinions of 18 leading experts on brain injury from North America, Britain and Australia. Some said they would testify with only their travelling expenses covered. Others charged as much as \$525 an hour. The father had to sell the family home and cash in his RRSPs to raise \$150,000 for his daughter's defence. With no home and rapidly declining funds, the father was forced to live in his lawyer's house during the trial.

Nine of those respected neurosurgeons and pediatric neuropathologists travelled to Timmins to testify in what amounted to a world-class symposium on children's head injury. They almost all agreed on one point: that even a small household fall could have caused the child's fatal brain injuries.

Another expert said that Smith—and many other pediatricians—were out of touch with the latest research into children's head injuries. That key defence witness was Dr. Ayub Omariya, a neurosurgeon and professor at George Washington University in Washington, one of the world's experts in the biomechanics of children's brain injury. Even if it was theoretically possible to cause fatal brain injury by shaking a child, said Omariya, in his testimony, a 12-year-old girl could not generate enough force to shake a well-developed 16-month-old baby to death. Smith, he continued, was still holding

views that had been overtaken by newer research. Smith "has taken as an article of faith that the shaken baby syndrome has existed in this case," testified Omariya. "He has made a pathological decision based on totally inadequate data."

In questioning the babysitter, provincial court Judge Patrick Dunn had strong words for Smith. In a 75-page judgment, he tried to steer clear of the medical controversy surrounding shaken baby syndrome but dealt with the facts of the case. Dunn said Smith's failure to keep up with the current research. "A diagnostician," he said, "should be up to date on the new studies in medical literature as he is of the old ones and be alert to problems in the articles in reporting the particulars of the injuries." Dunn also criticized the shortcomings of Smith's autopsy procedures. "It would behoove Dr. Smith, in making a diagnosis of shaking that would lead to a manslaughter charge, to show he seriously considered possibilities other than shaking," wrote Dunn. "The unanimity of the defence experts, their careful clinical and scientific, objective analysis of all the evidence, is more persuasive than Dr. Smith's undocumented memory of an autopsy that took place 18 months before he testified."

JOAN O'HARA



The judge criticized the shortcomings of Smith's autopsy procedures

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A new romantic anti-hero has found his way onto the screen. He's the young entrepreneur selling something that doesn't exist, or can't last. He's the 21st-century doc-com writer-bomb. *The Center of the World* is a drama about a twenty-something doctor (millennium who knows a stripper to go to Las Vegas with him) (a one-to-Newcastle scenario if ever there was one). And *Startup.com* is a documentary about the roller-coaster rise and fall of two Internet entrepreneurs. Both films are shot on digital video, with a frankness that makes you admire the bravery of the actors (in one case) and the subjects (in the other) for exposing themselves so openly on camera.

The Center of the World is a kind of *Last Tango in Vegas*, and is bound to create a stir when it plays at the Cannes International Film Festival next week. It stars Canadian actress Molly Parker, who performs explicit sex scenes with breathtaking candor, establishing a new benchmark in that quick-and-dirty between-mainstream voyeurism and outright pornography. Playing opposite her is Peter Sarsgaard, who is as sweetly available here as he was drilling in the role of the midwest youth who murdered Teresa Brandon in *Don DeLoe City* (1999).

And they are directed with palpable tenderness by American filmmaker Wayne Wang (*The Joy Luck Club*, *Smoke*, *Angie*), who co-wrote the movie with a team that included author Paul Auster.

Florence (Parker) and Richard (Sarsgaard) both live in isolated worlds. She's a rock drummer who makes her living as a lap dancer in an upscale strip club; he's a computer genius who has earned his first million and lives in a cybernetic cocoon. They strike up a casual friendship, which Richard tries to flesh-track by offering Florence \$100,000 to spend three days with him in Vegas. She accepts with strict conditions: separate rooms, a schedule, no kissing on the mouth, no penetration, no feelings. But things inevitably mess things up in Richard's quest to be an increasingly decent, sensitive and witty—the epitome of the perfect guy. Then, however, it's no *Pretty Woman* finale. As Richard tries to turn a transaction into a relationship, Florence clings to her power of alienated seduction, reluctant to give in to her enraptured emotion.



Peter Sarsgaard and Molly Parker take erotic risks in a *Last Tango in Vegas*

The story has a strained symmetry, as a diatribe between two characters trapped in their roles, each at the center of a self-contained world—hence the title. But under the discreet gaze of Wang's camera, which moves like the nervous third party in a ménage-à-trois, the actors create a startling intimacy. Sarsgaard's performance is a masterpiece of disbelieved charm. And Parker's girlish-like transformations from unadorned rock chick to lycra sex bomb are quite miraculous. Since her first risky outing as a necrophiliac in *Kluge* (1996), Parker has distinguished herself with fine work in unglorious character roles. Now, as the most self-possessed working girl since Jane Fonda in *Kluge*, she makes up for lost time with a high-wire dance into passion.

After that, it's hard to get excited about a documentary devoted to a couple of guys just trying to get rich. But *Startup.com*, which opened Toronto's Hot Docs film festival last month, has its own voyeuristic fascination. Created by Chris Hegedus, Jehane Noujaim and veteran D.A. Pennebaker (*Dynasty*, *Lost Boys*, *The War Room*), it's a remarkable piece of fly-on-the-wall journalism. The filmmakers follow the relationship of two young American dreamers, childhood friends Kallel Ross Timman and Tom Herman, as they create an Internet company out of thin air. Their site is go4World.com, a service to help people cut through the red tape of local government. And as it grows into a going concern with a staff of 250, we watch the two partners struggle with venture capitalists, caprice competitors—and their own volatile relationship. For a while, *Startup.com* looks like a success story, not unlike *The War Room's* chronicle of Bill Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign. There is even a clip of Timman dipping Herman, his business card and offering him a post-presidential job. But suddenly go4World is vaporized in the general meltdown of technology stocks, and the film turns into a sobering tale of broken folly.

The Center of the World and *Startup.com* are both bitter-sweet odysseys of lost innocence. And at the end of the day, the dreamers here don't seem so new: a young man sent out to make on the world, only to discover that the world is not there for the taking.

WRITING UP A STORM

There's a deluge of Canadian fiction, but some new voices aren't ready to be heard

Dr. R. MacDonnell's tale of a love triangle has paid in a act of melancholy

By John Burt Foster

Forget ice wine. Forget computer-technology and women's hockey teams. The quintessential Canadian growth industry is literary fiction. New novels and short-story collections are popping up faster than computer viruses in the Canadian Alliance. Back in 1975, only about 25 Canadian-authored English-language novels were published. Last year, the total was closer to 250, not counting short-story collections. If this was oil, we could pay down the debt.

So what's happening? Clearly there are more writers than ever before, and more publishers hungry to bring them to print. The new prizes have helped, too, especially the way \$25,000 Giller, which has edged out the venerable \$15,000 Governor General as the most sought-after award. And then there's the example of a few first-time novelists, most notably Anne Michaels with *Figures in a Landscape* and

Ann-Marie MacDonald with *Fall on Your Knees*. The overnight fame and fortune these women won have doubtless inspired many a would-be novelist to keep on valiantly typing, if not change her name to *Ann*.

But the critical change has been in publishing. Thanks to government grants, small and large Canadian-owned publishers have been able to invest in Canadian writers to a degree unheard-of 30 years ago. And the big foreign-owned firms that operate so profitably here (thanks to their marketing of popular foreign titles) have found it to be in their interest to publish as many Canadian writers as possible. They lose money on many of them, as do the Canadian companies, but their domestic publishing programs make for good corporate citizenship.

So the avalanche of fiction from up-and-coming writers goes on, and it is a good thing! Generally, yes. But at the

same time, a demanding reader might come to the conclusion that, in every season's fictional harvest, there's an awful lot of chaff. For every author who's gratefully acknowledged, there are two or three who can barely be considered promising. There are too many novels published that should have been put back in the drawer and declared a learning experience. But the fiction industry has developed a very large appetite for new product, and it has to be filled. Every season requires an crop of gnomes. Of course, in 50 years, or even in five, the names of a few of these will be remembered. But in the meantime, the books keep on coming, the good, the promising and the bad together, then *Mac* (unfolding) announcing the arrival of a great artist.

Most of this process, while unexciting enough, is simply not credible. In fact, the sheer unexcitement of quality fiction in books from the same company makes





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you wonder about editorial standards. Are there any? Or are editors just holding their noses over some books, knowing they have a quota to fill? Are companies firing the books out, scatterbrained, in the hopes that one of them will win a big prize? Or is all this publishing being done in good faith, with a view to nurturing new talent?

One thing seems clear: the more fiction that's published, the more the perception grows that the standard for publication is sinking fast. And yet, no one in his right mind would want to go back to the mean-spirited, under-published days of the 1960s, when nearly a good man except died in the slush pile. So what to do? The best solution would be for publishers to pull their socks up, voluntarily. Put out finer books. Make

publication a rarer prize than it is.

The alternative is a market driven by mediocrity. That's had far too much. And for Canadian-owned publishing, it could be dangerous. Governments with a bias against investing in the arts would be only too happy to seize on the bad books as a way to justify eliminating grants and subsidies altogether. And that, given what we've built up in the past 30 years, would be a tragedy.

Meanwhile, there really are some fine new talents and exciting books out there. Here are a few:



In the dark story of *Simple Steps* (McClelland & Stewart, \$22.99), a memorable debut collection by Vancouver's Mafredine Thériault, the narrator remembers a critical moment in the life of her

Malaysian immigrant family on the West Coast. In the first part of the story she watches her father prepare a traditional meal of rice and fish. Later, as the table, her younger brother explodes in rage and shame at their culture. The father begs him, between that act of violence and the slow, careful preparation of the meal lies a universe of complicated feeling, rendered exquisitely by 26-year-old Thériault in a style deeply influenced by the razor-sharp minimalism of Ocean Vuong.

The preparation of food also informs *Storley First* (Knopf Canada, \$32.95), a charming first novel from another Vancouver writer, Timothy Taylor. One of the most graceful young upstarts around, Taylor, 35, focuses on chef Johnny Paper and his obsession with making exquisite dishes such as grilled prawns presented in "a puddle of warm Thai ginger cream." The darker currents of his story include

an unrequited suitor. Yet the novel, while unforgoingly intelligent, lacks the more engaging reasons of Taylor's best short fiction.

Toronto short-story writer Michelle Berry has also just had a first novel published, the oddly spellbinding *What If All Were* (Random House Canada, \$32.95). Berry, 32, has one of the driest, most cunning sensibilities in Canadian fiction. A spiritual child of novelist Barbara Gowdy, the circus characters who are so profoundly isolated they seem to live in separate universes. Here she conjures a whole dysfunctional family of clowns, sequestered in a house after their mother's death. The floor is slowly covered with rocks and the walls with dolls, so its hardly surprising when they decide to bury them in the backyard.

Gayla Reed of Burnaby, B.C., has also launched a compelling first novel, the autobiographically named *All the Stars of the World* (Stoddart, \$29.95). It's the meandering saga of a friendship between two women, Deirdre and Bernadette, who come of age during the Vietnam War. A truly global novel, it touches on several traumatic political events and lives off on several continents. Reed has a intuitively fluid way of blending together experience (fearful memories of a lost father with the serenity of a face massage) in a voice as natural as breathing.

Another winner is *Spanish Diner* (Knopf Canada, \$29.95) by Jay Sussman. Vancouver writer, Rick Macdonald. This strong debut book of linked stories (also in career of gravity from a group space on the north shore of Lake Erie. Macdonald movingly captures the claustrophobia of small-town life, and reflects the frayed hopes of characters ranging from a barely 10-year-old immigrant boy from Wales to a young woman who abandons her teenage husband.

In *Cape Breton Road* (Doubleday Canada, \$32.95), D.B. MacDonald brings some new changes out of that age-old situation, the lost triangle. When a troubled young man called Irene Carben falls in love with his uncle's girlfriend, he embarks on a slow voyage towards his own undoing. Cape Breton native MacDonald excels at evoking both his wild island and the labyrinth of Irene's adolescent past. But his story seems paddled, a short story or novella inflated to novel size.

Another flawed but worthwhile book is *Elena Richter's* debut collection of linked stories, *Sister Cissy* (Knopf



There makes a memorable debut

Canada, \$29.95). The London-based daughter of Holocaust Richter, 38-year-old Richter has a startlingly original, disquieting voice that vividly conveys the troubled psyche of her heroine, Jenna Wynn, as she recalls her childhood in a large, eccentric family. Though some stretches are tedious, Richter at her best balances on a knife-edge between humour and sadness.

In *The Dead in Me* (McClelland & Stewart, \$32.99), Toronto poet J.D. Caperton, 52, subverts the standard cop mystery with the highly readable first novel about a murderer who starts knocking off magazine editors because they've rejected his poems. Inside the traditional thriller lies a more serious look at the mysterious links between creativity and violence.

Another Torontoan, 24-year-old Sheila Finn, achieves an even greater success with the subtle tale in *The Middle of Things* (Anansi, \$24.95).

The factless yet somehow memorable characters in these tales have a strange, Kafkaesque way of getting under your skin, whether they're living in a shire or living in Dullesville. In fact, they have a lot in common with the characters in the adolescent collection, *Kingdom of Monkeys* (Anansi, \$19.95) by Vancouverite Adam Lewis Schneider. Like Heller's stories, these tales of North American misfits in Asia emerge from the searing generation's raw sensibility—an intriguing blend of irony so cool it verges on nihilism and a subliminal in the individual's ability to blunder through. ■

freely in their responses. In the stories of Marina Insh boyhood recalled by Elena, Redhill subtly explains—without ever saying—why Marina runs his back on love. What makes Jensen so appealing is that when she reaches what Redhill calls "that twisted moment when we realize that loving other people is very dangerous," she still believes "that nothing else is worth doing."

Brian Bethune

Overcoming that 'twisted moment'

For a first novel, even one polished through a dozen drafts over 10 years, *Marina Insh* (Doubleday Canada, \$29.95) is remarkably assured. Author Michael Redhill tells his powerful story of two American college friends, Joanne and Molly, and Joanne's much older lover, an Irish-Canadian artist named Maria Skane, almost entirely in Joanne's frenetically intelligent

voice. Redhill's years of effort are apparent in more than his seamless prose. That craftsmanship, together with his understanding of basic human nature, allowed him to pull off the memorable character of Joanne, whose life is shattered when Maria goes up one night and simply disappears, forever. "Men and women don't suffer loss differently, or face death or loneliness differently," says the

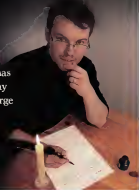
34-year-old Toronto poet and playwright. "The book is not about the differences between the sexes."

What the book is about is a much human beings are loath to admit, that in the end we are alone—"The only presence in our lives," Redhill says, "that we can count on" is "Marian and Joanne are buffeted by similar losses while growing up, from betrayal by loved ones to madness, brutal acts of fate. But they differ pro-

foundly in their responses. In the stories of Marina Insh boyhood recalled by Elena, Redhill subtly explains—without ever saying—why Marina runs his back on love. What makes Jensen so appealing is that when she reaches what Redhill calls "that twisted moment when we realize that loving other people is very dangerous," she still believes "that nothing else is worth doing."

Edmonton writer Thomas Wharton may be on the verge of literary stardom

Writing by candlelight and quill pen helped bring the past alive



MAGIC AND REAL LIFE

Call him a method writer. For his new novel, *Salemster*, which is largely set in 18th-century Europe, Edmonton author Thomas Wharton immersed himself in the culture and trappings of the period. Wharton, 38, devalued books from the era and surrounded himself with the music of Mozart and Bach. While on a research trip to London, he acquired a wig and vest from the era; back in Canada, he occasionally donned them and wrote by candlelight with a quill pen. "That's the way I seem to need to work," says Wharton with a playful shrug. "In order to create a world, I have to go there in my imagination."

Salemster (McClelland & Stewart, \$34.95), the sweet fruit of those labours, defies easy description. On one level, it tells the story of Nicholas Flood, a hapless British prisoner who has the misfortune of falling in love with the daughter of Count Rosenstern Otero, a brilliant and virginal Slovak aristocrat. It's also a historical,

global-croaking romp in search of a mystical "infinitesimal book" that raises questions about the true nature of reading, writing and God, not necessarily in that order. Fleecy stuff—and a potential minefield of missteps for an author delivering only his second novel. But Wharton carries it off with aplomb, cementing his reputation as one of Canada's most promising young writers.

Salemster is the eagerly awaited follow-up to Wharton's debut novel, *Ayfeld*. Published in 1995 by Edmonton's McWest Press, *Ayfeld* is set closer to home, in the glacier fields of the Canadian Rockies near Jasper, where Wharton spent part of his youth. But like *Salemster*, it is imbued with magical realism touches that owe a debt to two of the author's literary heroes, Italo Calvino and Jorge Luis Borges. Wharton, who worked on his first novel as part of his master's thesis in creative writing at the University of Al-

berta, expected the book to have limited appeal. "I thought, 'OK, it's like 500 copies then that's fine with me,'" he recalls.

Instead, *Ayfeld* was picked up by publishers in the United States, Europe and China, earning glowing reviews: "everything from the august *New Literary Spectrum* (which called Wharton "a writer to watch") to *People magazine* (which ran its review under a half-page picture of Wharton played in the snow). To date, *Ayfeld* has sold 15,000 copies, much to the astonishment of its author. "I thought I was working on this very personal thing," says Wharton. "But I discovered I'd done something that people could connect with."

For most of his life, in fact, Wharton viewed literature as a very solitary pursuit. Born and raised in the small northern Alberta city of Grande Prairie, he was a shy, bookish youngster in a place where pickup trucks and hunting parties reigned supreme. He spent a good part of his early years in the basement children's section of the Grande Prairie Public Library, plodding with staff to allow him into the adult books. When they finally did, he scoured on everything from Dickens to Dostoevsky. "I was probably getting into heavier things than I should have as a teenager," he says. "I remember reading *The Brothers Karamazov* and being plunged into that horrible depression for a few weeks." His family moved to Jasper when he was 15, which only exacerbated his social isolation. "I got really introverted," says Wharton. "And I think that's where the writing came from. I needed a way to express all this stuff that was going on in my head."

These days, Wharton still takes his solitude, fleeing it as it may be. When he's not working on his novel or as a distance-education tutor for Athabasca University, he is a househusband to Sharon, who is a nursing manager, and their two children, Mary, 9, and Connor, 5. His ambition is to be able to write full time, a luxury for Canadian novelists. In the meantime, he has a handy analogue to the buzz suggesting he is on the verge of literary stardom: "Being a father keeps you grounded," he chuckles. "When you're talking on the phone to your agent and you're got a five-year-old yelling, 'Dad, come wipe my butt,' it brings you back to reality."

Brian Bergman is Edmonton



WHAT THE CRITICS ARE SAYING ABOUT THE JOLLY TROLLEY.

The Jolly Trolley is a mobile video entertainment library designed to brighten up "life on the road" for kids in hospital. The 21st Jolly Trolley was recently donated to the NW Grace Health Centre in Halifax. The Jolly Trolley program keeps rolling and growing through proceeds collected from every rental at Rogers Video. Which means, the next time you rent a movie from us, you may not be the only one enjoying it.

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Entertainment Notes

Edited by Susan Oh



Decadent Forest is on the block

Luxury Carrs

Would you buy a used Carr from this man? Occasional Vancouverite Bryan Adams—international rock star, budding photographer and an aficionado—is selling four paintings that took from his substantial collection of works by West Coast artist Emily Carr (1897-1945). Adams began collecting Carr's work in the mid-1980s, says David Helfel, president of Vancouver's Hefel Fine Art Auction House. The paintings, which may fetch as much as \$275,000 in total, are among eight Carrs in Helfel's May 9 auction of Canadian art.

Hefel says Adams has a deep passion for Carr's creations. "Not just her paintings and watercolours, but also her canvas and literature. He was very much intellectually involved with her whole artistic depth." In February, Adams donated her 1915 painting *The Widener Man* to the National Gallery of Canada. It's not known why Adams is selling, but Carr is hot. A year ago, Helfel sold *War Commemoration* for \$1,618,750—a record sum for any Canadian woman artist. An anonymous Canadian bought the work after the sale or was chased up by out-of-country bidders. Says Helfel: "Canadians really value their own culture once they see how foreigners are prepared to pay for it."

NO CHANCE FOR CELIBACY

So how is a young man to convince a young woman that he's not gay given that she's fallen in love with him on the understanding that he is? That's the bizarre problem facing a hapless dancer called Joel (Tim Hawes) in *Anything but Marry*, a musical by Ann-Marie MacDonald (author of the best-selling novel *Fall on New River*) and composer Allan Cole. The object of Joel's affection, scientist Jerry (Kyrin Rancey), is so tired of failed relationships that she's ready for celibacy. For chance she'll find it, though, in this witty musical in which gay, straight and bisexual characters can't go five minutes without ogling somebody. Premiered last year in a rushed production at Toronto's La MaMa Theatre, *Anything but Marry* has been cut, rewritten and generally improved in a beautifully acted new ver-



The cast gets in sync through the musical

sion at the city's Tarragon Theatre.

The musical soars on Rancey's funny-girl persona. In *The Rat Song*, she playfully sings to one of her laboratory rodents: "If I give you seven rats every time I put you would you live as far as your little legs would like you? Or would you do what I do? Come a rascal's back!"

John Derrico

A DEEP CUT ABOVE THE REST

Two years ago, during the hysteria surrounding the Columbian massacre, controversy raged through the Canadian media about Telefilm pouring public money into a violent movie about vigilante teens. Now that it's out, everyone else relax. Sure, *Ginger Snaps* packs its share of blood and visceral violence—it is a horror movie. But it's also a cut above the genre. Toronto filmmakers Karen Walton, who wrote the script, and John Fawcett, who directed it, have made a smart, original werewolf movie that also contains a mild essay on female sexuality.

Teenage slimmers Brigitte and Ginger—played with guile penetration by Emily Perkins and Katherine Isabelle—are both outcasts. After

getting snubbed by a mysterious wild animal, Ginger begins to morph into a werewolf with a taste for male flesh. "It's like an infection," she observes, "it works from the inside out." The jealous Gingerling's wolf likes to own-uple first, and draws heavily on monstrosities metaphors and feminist lore. ("A girl can only be a slut, a bitch, a whore or the single most deer"). But the performance is strong. With Lelande adds a cool touch of testosterone as a post-growing botanist trying to cure the curse. And even with a comic turn by Mimi Rogers as a clueless suburban mom, Fawcett keeps things seriously eerie. This is one horror movie that doesn't creep into camp. It gives for the blood.

Brian D. Johnson



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Entertainment Notes

Incredible journey

Every year, in the world's best-known non-bird migration, every monarch butterfly born east of the Rockies—perhaps 100 million of them—wanders to the same 50 flowered acres in central Mexico (The wilderness head for California) At Sue Halpern's *Four Wings and a Prayer* (Knopf), makes clear much of the astonishing journey is still poorly understood. For one thing, the wandering was first discovered only in 1974, by University of Toronto biologist Fred Urquhart. And for another, whatever guides the toddlers, it isn't necessary—a single butterfly makes the round-trip. In spring, the monarchs breed their way north; in fall, even those born in Canada manage to find their way to those Mexican refuge.



Best Sellers

Fiction	2004 sales
1. <i>HOUSE IN HICKORY CREEK</i> , J. Coates (D)	1
2. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	2
3. <i>CHUCK BATHY</i> , M. J. & M. Coates (D)	4
4. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
5. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
6. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
7. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
8. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
9. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10
10. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	10

Non-fiction

1. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
2. <i>A LINE OF SINGING</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
3. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
4. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
5. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
6. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
7. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
8. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
9. <i>THE OTHER GIRL</i> , Lisa Thompson (D)	1
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1. *House in Hickory Creek*
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